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ST. PATRICK'S DAY 2012

O'mg

Hold on to your shamrocks:
It's time for one big Irish party 6-7

GREEN MACHINES @ redeyechicago.com

Italy in your own backyard 24

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BY JULIA BORCHERTS, FOR REDEYE | METROMIX@TRIBUNE.COM » GET MORE EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM

EAT

BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

Jake Melnick's Corner Tap

41 E. Superior St. 312-266-0400

No need to RSVP for the fourth annual all-you-can-eat Pre-Soak Breakfast on the patio, which includes Guinness pancakes with maple butter and Irish whiskey syrup, corned beef brisket hash and green pesto portobello omelets with Irish cheddar. 8 a.m.-noon Saturday. $5.

SAVANNAH STYLE

The Southern

1840 W. North Ave. 773-342-1840

Taking a cue from the huge St. Patrick's celebrations in Savannah, Ga., the Bucktown spot hosts a crawfish boil ($15) that you can wash down with $4 Jameson shots, $5 Guinness cans and $7 Irish car bombs. Enter the leprechaun costume contest and you could win a fried chicken dinner for six. 3 p.m. Saturday. No cover.

DRINK

BLOCK PARTY

Roots Handmade Pizza

1924 W. Chicago Ave. 773-645-4949

High Dive

1938 W. Chicago Ave. 773-235-3483

Cleo's

1935 W. Chicago Ave. 312-243-5600

You can shamrock around the block at these three East Village joints, which team up for an Irish party trifecta featuring $4 Jameson shots and—in case you've got post-parade basketball on your mind—viewings of the Bulls and March Madness games. 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Saturday.

TO DYE FOR

Fulton's on the River

315 N. LaSalle Drive 312-822-0100

Watch the 10 a.m. dyeing of the Chicago River from the open-air riverfront veranda and wake yourself up with $2 green draft pints, $5 Guinness-topped bloody marys and $4 Jameson Jell-O shots at the fourth annual Dye One On bash. Craving more than a liquid brunch? Add bangers and mash or a Reuben sandwich for $5. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday.

DO

IRISH AYES

Irish American Heritage Center

4626 N. Knox Ave. 773-282-7035

Looking for multiple parties under one roof? Say "yes" to this annual post-parade festival that features 15 traditional and contemporary Irish music and dance acts from Chicago and Ireland on four stages—plus food and cocktails for purchase. Featured performers include Tim O'Shea and Patrick Buckley, the Shannon Rovers and more. 1 p.m.-midnight Saturday. $15.

REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY The 57th annual **St. Patrick's Day Parade** kicks off at noon Saturday at Columbus Drive and Balbo Avenue.

A Chicago Tribune publication

redeyechicago.com

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WATER WORLD

A boat load of rescued Titanic memorabilia is on the auction block

CNN

NEW YORK The most famous shipwreck of all time is on the auction block, including passengers' personal belongings and even salvage rights to the wreck site at the bottom of the North Atlantic Sea.

The collection includes video footage of the ship and recovery effort, as well as more than 5,500 artifacts recovered from the wreck. The artifacts consist of fine china, silverware, clothing; diamond jewelry and other personal items, decorative items from the boat; and even pieces of the ship itself.

The auction, near the shipwreck's centennial, marks the first time artifacts collected from the Titanic during salvage expeditions will be available for sale, although items gathered from the ocean surface or from survivors have been sold in the past—for a pricey sum.

All the artifacts and intellectual property in this auction will be sold as a single lot by Guernsey's auction house in New York. In a previous appraisal, the collection was valued at $189 million altogether.

RMS Titanic Inc., a division of Premier Exhibitions, has owned the official salvage rights to the Titanic and its wreck site for the past 18 years. Premier decided to auction the collection now because "the time was just right," according to Brian Wainger, spokesman for the company.

WHO'S BUYING?

Pre-qualified bidders must submit their bids to Guernsey's before April 2. Bids then will be reviewed and the winning bid will be announced by mid-April. Potential buyers include museums, municipalities, research institutions and even private individuals.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Here are a handful of the items in the Titanic collection up for auction. CNN

This baker's hat belonged to William Hine, a third baker on the Titanic. His name is embroidered on the brim.

A $5 U.S. bill from around 1912 was recovered. The note is slightly larger than today's currency.

Telegraphs, like this one recovered in 1987, were used to relay commands to the engine room.

The bronze cherub is believed to have decorated the upper landing of the grand staircase in first class.

An unidentified pair of gloves was recovered from the wreckage.

Recovered in 1987, this 15 karat rose gold and silver bracelet spells out the name Amy in diamonds.

It's beginning to look a lot like ...

Katie Killacky
» redeye@tribune.com

For Chicagoans, St. Patrick's Day isn't just an excuse to day-drink. I mean, we don't really need an excuse. That's what baby showers and unemployment are for.

But for Irish Chicagoans in particular, the holiday is more than dyeing rivers and beer. My family, for example, treats St. Paddy's with the same sort of reverence as Christmas, with days of planning and festivities leading up to the big event.

When I was little, I would wake up to leprechaun footprints leading to a "pot of gold" in the kitchen. There I found candy and some sort of festive costume, usually consisting of shamrock boxers or green leggings.

My parents would take us to the parades, and our painted faces would race up to the floats for chocolate wrapped like gold coins, Tootsie Rolls hard enough to bounce off my sister's head and taffy nobody wanted to eat except Dad. I remember the days when piling into the car to go to the South Side for the Daleys' party (I'm not name-dropping; different Daleys) was as exciting as a free trial of HBO for the weekend.

As a young adult, I joined Irish organizations and began tracing my family's genealogy after a trip to Ireland. There's a history and a spirit of the holiday that goes beyond whether you're full-blooded. After all, St. Patrick himself wasn't even Irish!

So in keeping with the spirit of the most wonderful time of the year, I invite everyone to enjoy the following.

KATIE KILLACKY IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

'Twas the night before St Patrick's Day and all through the house, everyone was stirring a cocktail in their ... glouse. (Just go with it.)

And Mama in her 'kerchief and Dad in his cap, argued over what a " 'kerchief" was for an hour and a hap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, but we were drinking so many Irish car bombs, it didn't even matter.

When, what to my wondering eyes should appear, but a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer. ... It was weird.

With a little old driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St. Patrick.

"Now, Ryan! Now, Shamus! Now, Collin and Riley! On, Connor! On, Stupid! On, Donald and ... uh ... Mike."

A bundle of beer he had flung on his back, and he looked like a peddler, just opening his six-pack.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work; he poured shots all around and then punched out a jerk.

As the reindeer started debating about the origin of the Celtic Cross, St. Patrick took the stage and showed them who was boss.

He talked about shamrocks and the history of the trinity, and his joke about the McMurphy twins went on for infinity.

Then he asked for a raise of hands from those who weren't Irish.

"Well, neither am I really." Then he stumbled and mumbled, "Irish-Schmirish."

But I heard him exclaim, before he was about to drive out of sight ... "Can someone give me a lift? I probably shouldn't drive."

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all, and to all a safe, fun, happy night!

FOLLOW THY TWEETS (#FF)

@redeyechicago has more than 47,000 followers on Twitter, but we're always being asked: Who are the best/funniest/weirdest Twitter accounts to follow? For Follow Friday, we'll give you a couple of ideas. And if you have anyone you think we should feature, send a tweet to **@JessicaGalliart**.

@HeavenMalone

Why you should follow: The Chicago DJ and promoter at Angels & Kings tweets about music, Chicago, parties, news and travel. Heaven, along with several other Chicago performers, is down at SXSW 2012 to perform Friday.

SAMPLE TWEET

"Have a new mixtape to release... soon. No hits, only hell."

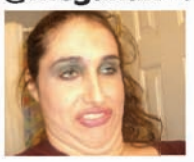
@bleeding_heart

Why you should follow: The Ukrainian Village/Lakeview bakery and cafe tweets photos of delicious treats, songs of the day and all about Chicago.

SAMPLE TWEET

"To my home and truly beloved city of Chicago, happy birthday. Now....lower my taxes please. :)"

@meganamram



Why you should follow: She's goofy, she's funny and we still can't figure out whether she's real. Her tweets are absolutely self-deprecating and she checks all shame at the door before crawling up to that keyboard.

SAMPLE TWEET

"To find your real porn name, take the translation of your Chinese letter tramp stamp & add to the name of your mom's 4th alcoholic husband"

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WHEN BARS COLLIDE

SATURDAY ST. PAT'S? TOTALLY AWESOME.

By Leonor Vivanco
REDEYE

Jessica Sharp (left) and Cassandra Studer enjoy the 2009 St. Patrick's Day Parade.
TRIBUNE FILE

Scott Dietrich's gotta start Saturday morning just right.

Every year, when Chicago celebrates St. Patrick's Day, he cooks corned beef and flips green pancakes for his close friends. That kind of breakfast will help him survive the rest of the day, which is shaping up to be epic this year.

For the first time since 2007, Chicago will ring in the actual St. Patrick's Day on a Saturday, and it turns out there's a boatload of other reasons to let loose.

There's the dyeing of the Chicago River and the downtown parade, of course. But there's also the bracket-busting insanity of the NCAA basketball tournament, the first weekend of which will be in full swing as revelers toss back those green beers. Add to that the fact that the Bulls have the opportunity to beat Philadelphia at home—a feat Michael Jordan and company achieved on a Saturday St. Patrick's Day way back in 1990—and the idea of a mad, mad March really starts making sense.

Don't forget about the burst of warm weather. The city is looking at a high of 76 degrees and a chance of rain in the afternoon.

"It's like the perfect storm," said Dietrich, 33, a commercial banker who lives in Lakeview.

Like many Chicagoans, he may need the luck of the Irish to make it through the crazy day.

As an organizer of St. Patty's Crawl Chicago, Dietrich, along with an expected group of 600, will be going on a three-bar crawl beginning at 9:30 a.m. with a four-hour open bar at Excalibur Nightclub in River North. Other stops include The Coach House in Lakeview and Barn & Company in Lincoln Park.

"St. Patrick's Day is one of the biggest bar days of the year to go along with the likes of Halloween and New Year's Eve," Dietrich said. "Get ready for lots of people, lots of green, lots of beer and no cabs."

That's exactly what out-of-towner Melissa Naber will find during her first St. Patrick's Day trip to Chicago. Naber also happens to be celebrating her 30th birthday, making the day all the more thrilling.

"We're all really excited," said Naber, 29, who is traveling from Arroyo Grande, Calif., with her boyfriend and another couple.

She considered boarding a plane to Ireland to mark her March 17 birthday, but she recently started a new job and couldn't get the time off for an overseas jaunt. So it was between Chicago, which she knew had one of the country's biggest St. Patrick's Day parades, and Phoenix, home to plenty of golf courses.

"For me, every experience I've had [in Chicago], everyone has been nice and had the Midwestern kind of hospitality," she said.

Her itinerary for Saturday includes a champagne brunch, the parade, shopping and dinner at Gibsons Bar & Steakhouse.

The St. Patrick's Day to-do list for the 600 Trinity Irish Dancers in the Chicago area, however, is much more grueling. March obviously is their busy month, with 150 appearances in Chicagoland. They have 21 public performances alone scheduled for Saturday.

"By the time it gets to that day, even though

PARTY FORECAST

BOOZY WITH A CHANCE OF MAYHEM

Saturday promises to be warm, springlike and jampacked with bar crawls, fests and events galore. How many will you check off the list? L.V.

GO GREEN

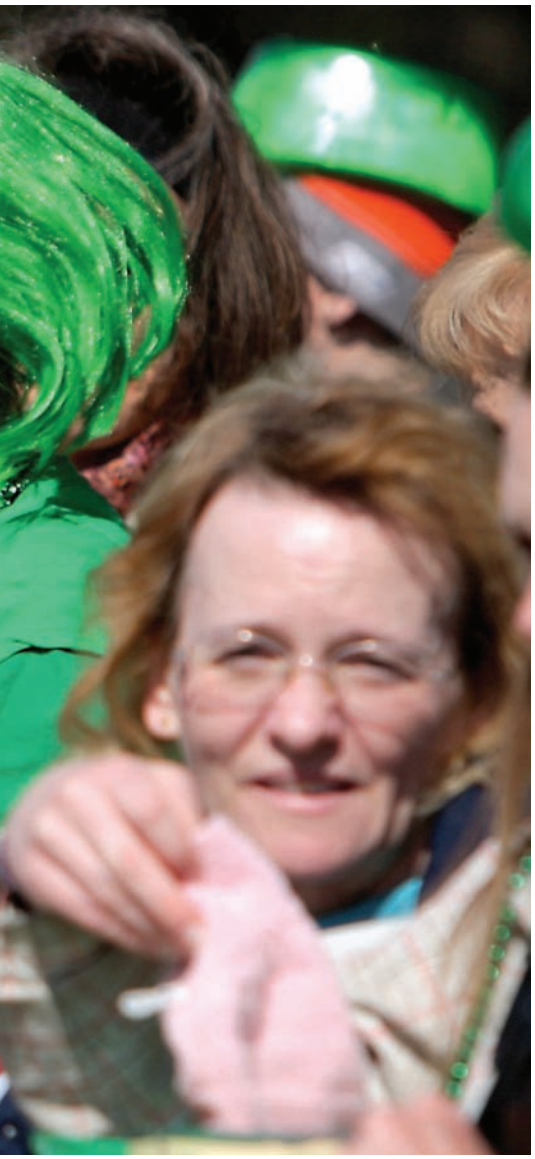
The parade typically is held the Saturday before St. Patrick's Day (March 17), but this year the holiday falls on Saturday itself. The parade steps off at 10 a.m. at the corner of Columbus and Balbo drives and goes north to Monroe Drive, rain or shine. Sara Collins, who was picked from more than 100 contestants, will be waving to the crowd as queen of the 57th St. Patrick's Day parade. Public transportation is encouraged to reach the route.

LOVE THE WAY YOU DYE

At 10:45 a.m. the Chicago river gets dyed a bright, "Ghostbusters" slime green, using an environmentally safe formula of course. Head to Michigan Avenue and Wacker Drive for the best vantage point to watch the river change colors.

BEST IN FEST

The Irish American Heritage Center hosts its annual St. Patrick's Festival following the parade from 1 p.m. to midnight. The two-day event will feature food, live entertainment from musicians and performances by the Trinity Irish Dancers, who are celebrating their 30th anniversary. Tickets are $15 for adults. The center, located at 4626 N. Knox Ave. in Mayfair Park on the Northwest Side, expects more than 10,000 visitors in March.



everybody's tired, it truly is so much fun," said Old Irving Park resident Shannan Hofman Bunting, 41, who has two daughters Sadie, 9, and Sinead, 5, in the troupe.

"They're doing a wedding. They're dancing at a 5K run, the Bulls game. ... You name it, they are dancing, pretty much," she said, noting the troupe has appearances at locations including the downtown parade, Navy Pier and the Irish American Heritage Center.

"It's very hectic, but it's so much fun," she said. LVIVANCO@TRIBUNE.COM | @LVIVANCO

CTA braces for heavy transit day

By Leonor Vivanco
REDEYE

Overcrowded trains and drunken commuters sound like a transportation nightmare.

In an effort to handle this year's St. Patrick's Day hoopla, Metra is banning alcohol on trains, adding extra cars and beefing up staff and security, Metra spokeswoman Meg Reile said.

Many parade watchers and partiers make the trek from the suburbs by train to celebrate the holiday.

Officials reserve the right to prohibit overly intoxicated people from boarding.

"At any time, if a person is disrupting the operation of a train or disrupting in a way that disturbs other passengers or presents a potential danger, the conductor will try to mediate the situation. But if that's not possible, they will call police and have people removed from the train," Reile said.

The CTA will have longer trains to accommodate the paradegoers. The seven buses rerouted from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. due to street closures for the parade are No. 6 Jackson Park, No. 10 Museum of Science & Industry, No. 14 Jeffery Express, No. 124 Navy Pier, No. 126 Jackson, No. 146 Inner Drive/Michigan Express and No. 147 Outer Drive Express.

For those taking the Brown Line, brace yourselves. Track maintenance is scheduled from 4 a.m. Saturday until 7 p.m. Sunday between the Southport and Belmont stations.

Buses will shuttle commuters in both directions to those stops.

There also will be free shuttle service in select neighborhoods, courtesy of the Miller Lite Free Rides program, from 9 a.m.-1 a.m. Saturday.

Route and schedule information are available at **millerlitefreerides.com**.

A leprechaun walks toward the crowd during the 2010 St. Patrick's Day Parade. TRIBUNE FILE

THAT'S BULLS

Tip-off is at 7 p.m. at the United Center. Derrick Rose and his teammates take on Philadelphia, which is fourth in the Eastern Conference. At their Feb. 1 meeting, the 76ers handed the Bulls one of its only eight losses so far this season. The Bulls bounced back and won the March 4 game. Who will be victorious this time?

GETTING MAD

Even though none of the March Madness rounds will be held in the Chicago area—the closest site is Columbus, Ohio—bars are bound to be packed with basketball fans rooting for their alma maters. Follow the cheers and the sighs of defeat echoing in every sports bar across the city during this round of the tourney.

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FRIDAY 71 58 Foggy bottom
SATURDAY 78 60 Ohhhh boy.
SUNDAY 78 62 Cleaning up

Former Gov. Blagojevich waves to the crowd as he leaves his home for Englewood federal prison in Colorado.
WILLIAM DESHAZER/TRIBUNE

End transmission

Blago reports to prison as TV scrum follows his every move

Reuters

Former Gov. Rod Blagojevich arrived at a Colorado prison Thursday to begin serving a 14-year sentence on corruption charges, and TV news cameras tracked his every step.

News cameras followed the former governor being driven from Denver's airport and walking into the Federal Correctional Institution Englewood, about 15 miles southwest of Denver, where he was assigned inmate number 40892-424. He wore jeans and a navy sports coat, and carried a small backpack.

Emerging from his North Side Chicago home early Thursday to travel to the airport for a flight to Denver, an unsmiling Blagojevich, 55, spoke briefly to waiting reporters.

"Saying goodbye is the hardest thing I've ever had to do. I'm leaving with a heavy heart, a clear conscience and high, high hopes for the future," he said.

Blagojevich, a two-term Democrat thrown out of office in 2009, has focused on the appeal of his conviction and has never admitted to wrongdoing other than talking too much and displaying too little humility.

He would be 67 when he emerges from prison if he serves the minimum 85 percent of his sentence. He is married to the daughter of his political mentor, a Chicago alderman, and they have two daughters, the younger 8 years old.

Blagojevich was arrested in December 2008 to head off what federal prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald called an imminent crime spree to profit from his office, including attempts to sell or barter the U.S. Senate seat vacated by President Obama.

Blagojevich was convicted in two trials—the jury failed to reach a verdict on all but one count after the first trial—and U.S. District Judge James Zagel in December handed Blagojevich a 14-year sentence on 18 corruption counts.

On Wednesday, in a lengthy parting statement before media, neighbors and passersby outside his Chicago home, Blagojevich recited his accomplishments while in office and expressed optimism about his appeal. He hugged well-wishers and autographed anything handed to him.

3 FOR ALL

WEIRD DAY

Former Gov. Rod Blagojevich started his day in his Ravenswood Manor home on Thursday and ended it at a prison in Littleton, Colo. As he traveled to begin serving his 14-year sentence on federal corruption charges, the ousted politician encountered a few out-of-the-ordinary situations. TRIBUNE

The airport
A special line was opened up for Blagojevich at an O'Hare security checkpoint, where he raised his arms as he went through the imaging machine. Just as he was surrounded by cameras at his house, a crowd of travelers at the airport snapped his photograph as he made his way to the gate.

The airplane
Once in his seat, Blagojevich was approached by a Fox News reporter who was also on the flight. Asked for his thoughts, Blagojevich said: "I appreciate the outpouring of kindness that people have shown. ... God has a purpose for all things."

The arrival
With two of his lawyers beside him, Blagojevich walked into the low-security federal prison about 12:50 p.m. Chicago time. He had approached the prison earlier, but then headed for a final meal before he surrendered. He ordered a double patty melt, fries and a soda but didn't finish the meal, according to Josh Andreakos, general manager of Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers.

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chicago

CTA moves to brand popular programs

By Tracy Swartz
REDEYE

Would you ride the Macy's holiday train? Or use the Nike Bus Tracker?

The CTA today moved one step closer to accepting corporate sponsorships for its popular traditions.

The cash-strapped agency issued a request for proposals to sponsor the annual holiday train, the Bus and Train Tracker, the penny-ride program on New Year's Eve and the program for free rides for Chicago Public Schools students on the first day of classes.

Sponsorships would include naming rights, branding, advertising, communication and promotion and an on-site event announcing the company's participation.

In the case of the holiday train, a two-decade tradition, the CTA said the look and feel of the bedazzled train will not change. The agency said it will still continue to control the train's design.

The CTA experimented with corporate sponsorships in 2009, when Apple agreed to spend nearly $4 million to renovate the North/Clybourn stop on the Red Line in exchange for leasing a strip of city land for free. Apple also has first dibs on naming rights.

The CTA, which began the year with a $277 million budget deficit, has been looking at new ways to raise cash. The agency's transit board agreed Wednesday to allow alcohol advertising on certain sections of the rail system, which is expected to generate $3.2 million.

IMG International is handling the proposals for the CTA, under an agreement approved by the transit board in August. IMG was chosen to solicit sponsorships of CTA assets. IMG's compensation is based on the number of sponsorships secured.

Bids are due at noon April 20.

TSWARTZ@TRIBUNE.COM | @TRACYSWARTZ

Pier won

Board OKs design team for Navy Pier makeover

Chicago Tribune

Navy Pier's governing board on Thursday approved a recommendation to hire a team led by the co-designer of New York's celebrated High Line to reshape the pier's public spaces.

In a unanimous vote, with Lake Michigan's waters sparkling just outside a meeting room, board members praised the landscape architect James Corner, saying they were impressed by his creative yet practical approach to the proposed revamp.

"They dreamed big, but they were able to do it in a way we could pay for it," said Sarah Garvey, chairwoman of Navy Pier, Inc.

Board members stressed they were picking a designer, not a completed design, and that they will work with Corner in the next few months, possibly incorporating ideas from the other four design teams who competed for the commission.

James Reilly, the pier's trustee, said he hoped many of the changes to the pier's public spaces would be built in time for its centennial in 2016.

Earlier Thursday, the Tribune reported that the pier's strategic planning committee would recommend Corner's team to the board of Navy Pier Inc., the not-for-profit corporation that governs and manages the facility. All the design teams' plans for the pier were first revealed by the Tribune in late January.

Aerial view of Navy Pier
ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/TRIBUNE

In addition to the 3-year-old High Line, which transformed a once-derelict elevated rail line on Manhattan's West Side into a popular 1.45-mile-long public park, Corner's portfolio includes the redesign of what is now known as Philadelphia's Race Street Pier, a 500-foot-long pier along the Delaware River.

Anticipating the pier's centennial in four years, its leaders last year undertook an international search for a design team to remake the public spaces of the 3,000-foot-long lakefront icon.

Their aim: to remake the pier's carnival image, attract more visitors during the winter and boost attendance. The pier had 8.7 million visitors in 2010, down from 9 million in 2000.

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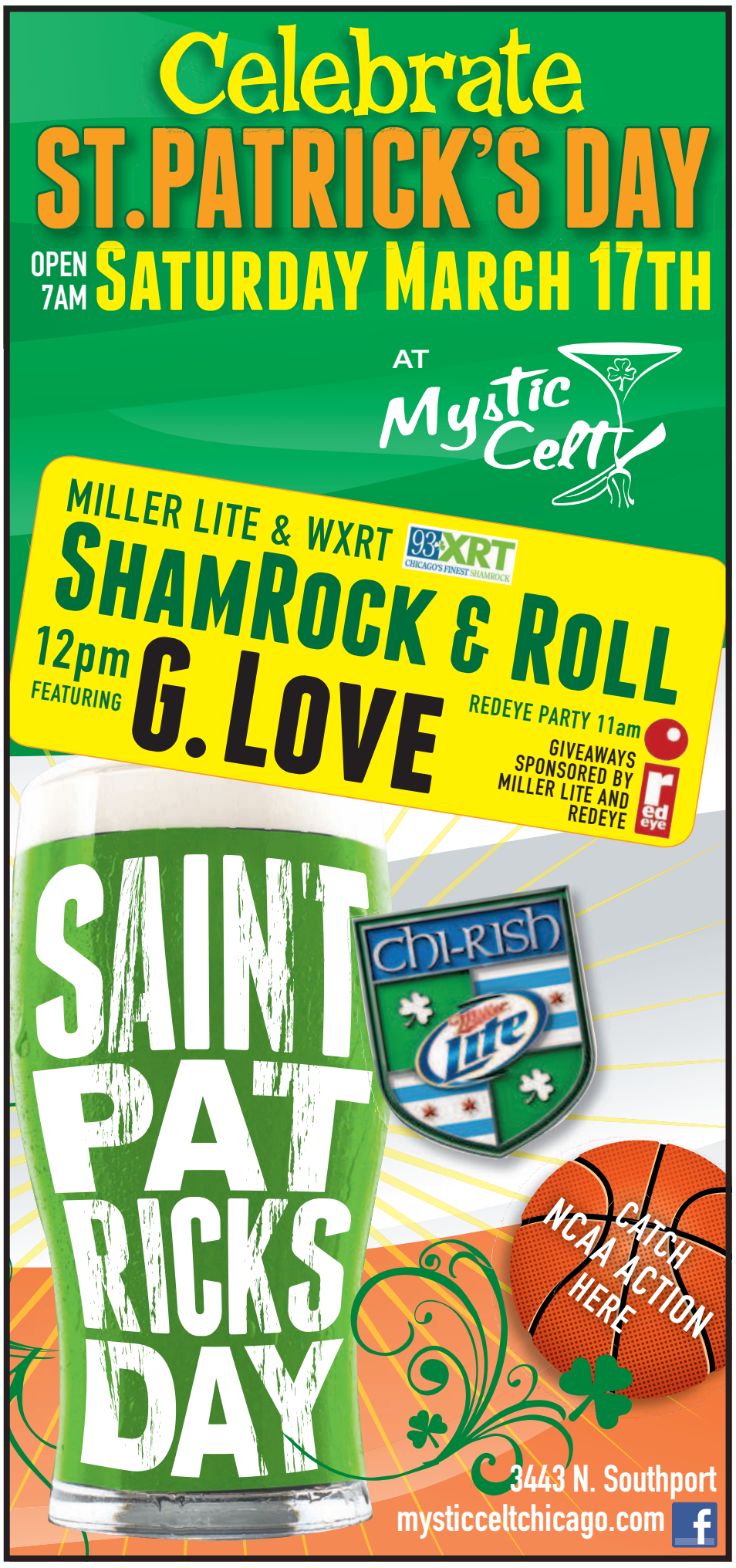

An Albany Park church has put in an offer to buy the Portage Theater at 4050 N. Milwaukee Ave. and convert it into a place of worship. TRIBUNE FILE

A holy future in store for Portage Theater?

Chicago Tribune

"If you want to go see the latest Hollywood blockbuster, don't call the Portage Theater," said Dennis Wolkowicz, describing the eclectic mix of indies and film festivals that are the Northwest Side art house cinema's stock in trade. If a proposed sale of the historic movie palace goes through, however, the building's future may not include movies at all.

A church called the Chicago Tabernacle has put in an offer to buy the Portage, on Milwaukee Avenue just north of Irving Park Road, and is in the process of petitioning the city for a permit that would allow the theater to be used as a house of worship. The sale is not a done deal, but the church's plans sparked an outcry over the weekend after Ald. John Arena (45th) whose ward includes Portage Park, posted a letter Friday on the city's Everyblock website that expressed concerns over the possible changes.

"Let me say loud and clear that I am not opposed to the church moving into our community," he wrote. However, "the loss of this historic icon in the heart of the Six Corners Shopping District would reverse years of planning and development. The historic Portage Theater can serve as an economic engine for that area.

"The problem is, I have a restaurant that's currently in build-out directly across the street that won't be able to get a liquor license if the Portage becomes a church."

A nondenominational Christian church affiliated with the Assemblies of God, Chicago Tabernacle is located in Albany Park and has been looking for a larger space.

Lakeview home's got a secret past

By Tracy Swartz
REDEYE

Forget that the house was once owned by a "local celebrity." A Lakeview home currently for sale features underground tunnels from the Prohibition era.

The four-bedroom brick house in the 3500 block of South Marshfield Avenue was built in 1889, according to its listing. It's for sale for $550,000.

The homeowner said the tunnels once were used to shuttle liquor between buildings, but they are now "cemented up." She declined further comment for this story.

The listing also boasts that a "local celebrity" once lived there. Real estate records show that NBC Chicago anchor Allison Rosati lived in the house in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Rosati did not respond to RedEye requests for comment. The listing agent, David Bovyn of Kale Realty, confirmed that Rosati was a previous tenant.

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1 Belgium mourns crash victims

Belgium said it will hold a national day of mourning Friday for 22 school children and six adults killed in a bus crash in Switzerland, as the first of the survivors made their way home. GETTY IMAGES

2 Gay consultation launched

The British government launched a public consultation process Thursday on its plan to let gay couples marry, giving Christians and others three months to air their strong objections while insisting it would not back down.

3 Alleged madame remains in jail

Anna Gristina, the woman accused of running a multimillion-dollar brothel out of her Manhattan apartment, will remain in jail after a judge on Thursday rejected her new lawyer's request to reduce her $1 million bail.

4 Breast implant warning

Dutch authorities on Thursday warned thousands of women who had breast implants made by French company Poly Implant Prothese before 2001 to consider removing them because the implants may leak silicone that could harm their health.

5 Is monument sinking in D.C.?

Part of the National Mall near the Washington Monument may be sinking at a faster rate than expected, possibly as a result of an August earthquake, a spokesman for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Thursday.

6 Norway police apologize

Norway's police apologized Thursday for not acting faster to stop the massacre of 69 people at a Labour Party youth camp last summer by an anti-Islamic gunman who had earlier set off a bomb in central Oslo that killed eight people.

Tap those brakes, people

7 **WASHINGTON** Slow down.

So says the Governors Highway Safety Association, which is flashing its figurative red lights over speeding on the nation's roads, saying that "little progress has been made in reducing the proportion of speed-related crashes."

Although the number of crashes that involved speeding has dropped—along with overall traffic deaths—speeding continues to be a factor in about one-third of traffic deaths, a new report from the highway safety group says. The problem stands in contrast to progress in nearly every other area of highway safety.

Since 2000, the share of traffic fatalities linked to speeding has increased 7 percent, while fatal crashes involving occupants not wearing seat belts declined 23 percent and alcohol-impaired fatalities dropped 3 percent, the report said. In 2010, the most recent year included in the report, 10,530 people died in speed-related crashes.

"We need to bring the same level of federal and state energy to addressing speed that was brought to tackling seat belt use and drunk driving," said the highway safety group's chairman, Troy E. Costales.

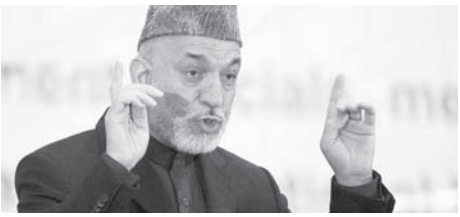
Among the challenges in reducing speed-related traffic deaths: 78 percent of state highway offices surveyed by the group cited "public indifference to speeding" as the biggest obstacle.

UNLUCKY 7

The report expressed alarm that seven states—Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia—have raised speed limits on some roads "despite research showing that an increase in traffic deaths was attributable to raised speed limits" after the 1995 repeal of the national 55-mph speed limit. Texas has the highest speed limit in the country—85 mph on stretches of rural highways.

Another factor, the group said: cutbacks in 35 states to the number of officers assigned to speed enforcement.

8 Noori, a cloned Pashmina goat born Friday in Suhama, Kashmir, is the world's first cloned Pashmina goat and is doing well so far, doctors at the facility where she was born said. REUTERS

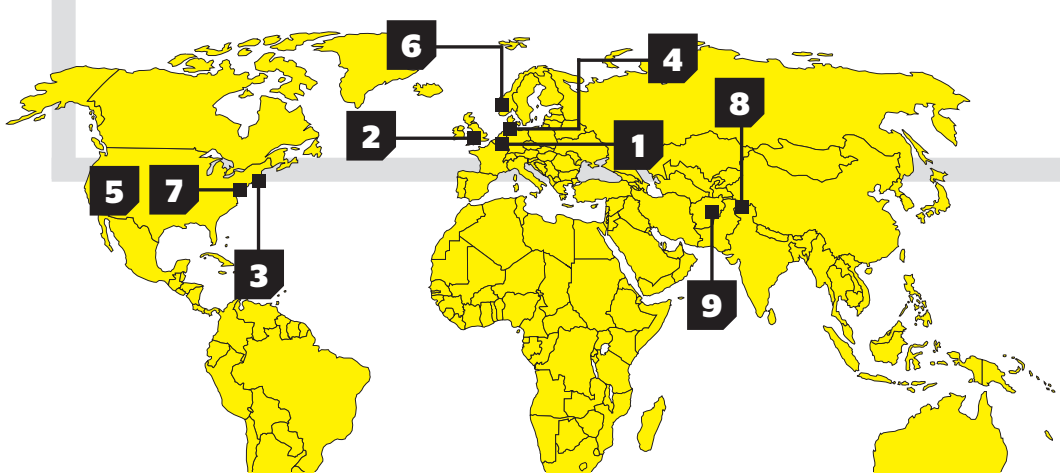


Afghanistan to U.S.: Move NATO troops

9 **KABUL** Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai (above) called for NATO troops to leave Afghan villages and confine themselves to major bases after the slaughter of 16 civilians by a U.S. soldier, underscoring fury over the massacre and clouding U.S. exit plans.

In a near-simultaneous announcement, the Afghan Taliban said it was suspending nascent peace talks with the U.S. seen as a strong chance to end the country's decade-long conflict, blaming "shaky, erratic and vague" U.S. statements.

Karzai, in a statement after meeting U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta in Kabul, said as a consequence of the weekend massacre, "international security forces have to be taken out of Afghan village outposts and return to [larger] bases." GETTY IMAGES PHOTO



THE DIGIT

4 Not only does the TSA confiscate four handguns a day among the contraband it takes from airline customers, its agents once seized a stun gun concealed as lipstick and found a dagger hidden inside a hairbrush, according to new updates on the TSA blog.

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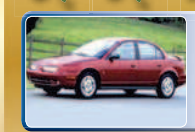

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sports

ON TV
Brandon Marshall news conference, 11 a.m. Friday, Comcast SportsNet

TALKING POINTS

Bears coach, GM back controversial wide receiver Brandon Marshall

RedEye

Two days after the trade for oft-troubled receiver Brandon Marshall, Bears general manager Phil Emery and coach Lovie Smith met the press in the form of a conference call.

They talked a lot about the 27-year-old Marshall's on-field play, but questions about his off-field character were unavoidable in light of the accusations that he hit a woman in the face over the weekend.

"When you look at this level of player, what he has done on the field, despite the problems that Brandon has had—and he acknowledges and we acknowledge that he has had—he has always performed at a very high level on the field," Emery said.

Marshall will get to speak for himself when he meets the Chicago media Friday. But first, let's take a look at what was said in Friday's news conference and put those quotes through the RedEye translator.

Marshall
GETTY IMAGES FILE

THE REDEYE TRANSLATOR

WHAT PHIL EMERY SAID ...
"I think there is a risk with every player you bring in."

WHAT HE MEANT ...
"I mean, seriously, I couldn't have been the only one terrified of Kyle Orton's neckbeard."

What he said ... "The league has contacted us. We're in contact with the league. We're working through this process with them, along with ourselves and doing our own work. We will monitor the process and follow it through to its conclusion."
What he meant ... [Crosses fingers] "Please don't be suspended, please don't be suspended ..."

What he said ... "We know Brandon's one of the top players in the NFL, and that speaks volumes about his football character."
What he meant ... "His football character, frankly, is badass. Have you seen him do his thing on the field?"

WHAT LOVIE SMITH SAID ...
"All the information we had on Brandon, we felt good about what we have in place here and him being a Bear."

WHAT HE MEANT ...
"What we have in place here is a man named Brian Urlacher, and if Brandon Marshall makes us look bad, Big Bri will quietly take care of it."

What he said ... "I think we all do some things that we're not necessarily happy about."
What he meant ...
"I wish I could take back all those times I said 'Rex Grossman is our quarterback.' "

What he said ... "I know what happened with Sam [Hurd, arrested on drug charges]. We did our research then. We did it now, and I'm hoping the results will be a whole lot better."
What he meant ... "The results had better be more than a whole lot better, or else I'll be looking for a job after next season."

I'll carry Brandon's baggage

SACKED AGAIN

Bag Boy
» redeyesports@tribune.com

Welcome, Mr. Marshall, may I carry your baggage?

Yeah, we got him, and yes, I'll take all that comes with him.

And I mean everything.

Brandon Marshall. I have to remove the oxygen tank while writing this because I've been passed out since Tuesday.

It's true. The Chicago Bears traded for a big-time receiver—Pro Bowler, 6-4, 230, and entering his prime at the same time as Jay Cutler. I've only been asking for a receiver since ... I was born.

Don't laugh. It's true. Until now, the greatest receiver around here was Walter Payton. He was a running back, so ...

Folks, this is earth-shattering. This puts us at the top. Now we just need an O-line, tight end, corner and defensive line, and we're all set.

Now, the caveat. Just like all great, deranged wide receivers, this one comes with baggage.

I'm so desperate, I'll carry his baggage. It's called borderline personality disorder (sounds self-diagnosed, doesn't it?). Also known as emotionally unstable personality disorder. It's defined as "a prolonged disturbance of personality function, characterized by depth and variability of moods."

God, this reminds me of someone—me!

Please, people, trust me. This is manageable. I have this, and it's very, very treatable. Here's what people do. They ignore me. They put me in a corner. They give me some meds. They make me write a diary, only I also add pictures. I color. I fire off angry letters to Congress and I take a pill at night. And I'm not allowed near schools.

See? Manageable. I don't condone violence. Whatever he might have done, he'll be punished for it. He'll learn. Give him Cutler. Give him the ball. Problem solved.

So thanks, Phil Emery. I thought you were another boring Bears guy, but you're more than that. Oh, and you got us a backup quarterback! Who the hell do you think you are? A regular NFL GM? Look at you!

Now finish the job. A draft is coming up (oh, sorry, I want another receiver. Yes, I do and so do you. Greedy.) I can smell this thing.

BAG BOY IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

THE STARTING LINE » Bulls vs. Portland, 7 p.m. United Center, CSN » Blackhawks at Dallas, 7:30 p.m. CSN+ » Cubs vs. San Francisco, 3:05 p.m. » White Sox at Arizona, 3:10 p.m

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Brown-bagged and furious
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1 How did Day 1 of the NCAA Tournament treat you?	Like Brandon Marshall supposedly treats women.	Murray State? Present.	You mean Norfolk State's Day Eve? And by the way, Wildcats fans, that's NSU 1, Northwestern 0.	Feeling pretty solid. North Carolina is in a good spot to make a run.	Like a lover you haven't seen in a year ... gentle and kind. Then it got cold and weird.
2 How long did your bracket last Thursday before being rendered obsolete?	Put it this way: I had DePaul in the title game.	No need to use bust tracker here.	Well, can't say much about Thursday, but I picked my Spartans to upset Mizzou, so ...	Day 1 was good to me, almost too good. Wary of everything falling apart on Friday.	I lasted the whole day ... then, night came. Chills.
3 Eleven games left for the Blackhawks. How are you feeling about them?	So hopeful my nipples are erect during games, except when they're on the power play.	I need to help them pin down their goalie.	Like I'm going to be nauseated. C'mere, Bag Boy, I need to borrow something ...	The Blackhawks are hard-working. They have a winning mentality and I think they'll do well down the stretch.	Great. No, crappy. Seriously, they're awesome, until they suck. Love 'em. Wait. No.
4 How impressive is Montreal selling more than 50,000 tickets for its opener against the Fire?	In the NFL, that game gets blacked out.	Well, what's the conversion rate?	Yeah, but what's that in American tickets?	It's unbelievable. It shows the impressive growth of our league and of soccer in North America.	Bonjour, Chicago Fire, bienvenue! Psst. Hope they like it more than baseball.
5 Give the Fire some season-opening words of encouragement.	Hope. Perseverance. Champion. Can I get those words back later? I'll need them for the Cubs.	Love me 'tender.	I think you guys can challenge Sporting Kansas City this year. Is that really a team?	I think it's a faux pas (probably shouldn't use French) to give yourself words of encouragement.	I just want to let you know: Good luck, we're all counting on you.

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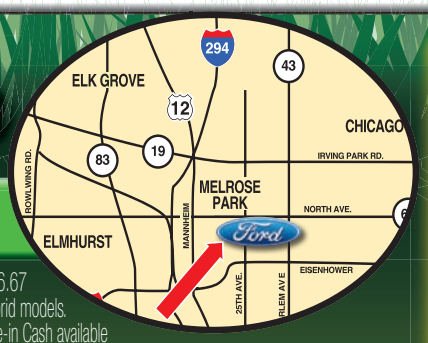

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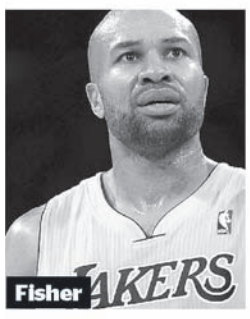
Howard's END

Orlando center stays with Magic after all

After months of agonizing over his future, and with the NBA trade deadline just hours away, All-Star center Dwight Howard decided to commit to Orlando for at least one more season. He waived his contract's early termination option and ensured he will remain with the franchise for the 2012-13 season.

"I'm glad that this is finally over with," Howard said during a news conference at the Amway Center, flanked by Magic CEO Alex Martins and General Manager Otis Smith. "It's been very tough for me the past couple of months to make a decision. I've gone back and forth. It's not as easy as what people think. It's very hard when you're talking about a career-changing event, and most people wouldn't see that."

Howard didn't go anywhere, but other players did. Here's a rundown of Thursday's biggest moves, although none could be described as Earth-shattering.



Fisher

- The L.A. Lakers traded veteran point guard Derek Fisher and a conditional draft pick to the Houston Rockets for forward Jordan Hill.
- The Lakers also sent forward Luke Walton, forward Jason Kapono and their 2012 first-round draft choice to the Cavaliers for Ramon Sessions and forward Christian Eyenga.
- The L.A. Clippers acquired shooting guard Nick Young from the Washington Wizards for Brian Cook.
- The Indiana Pacers acquired guard Leandro Barbosa from the Toronto Raptors for a second-round pick.

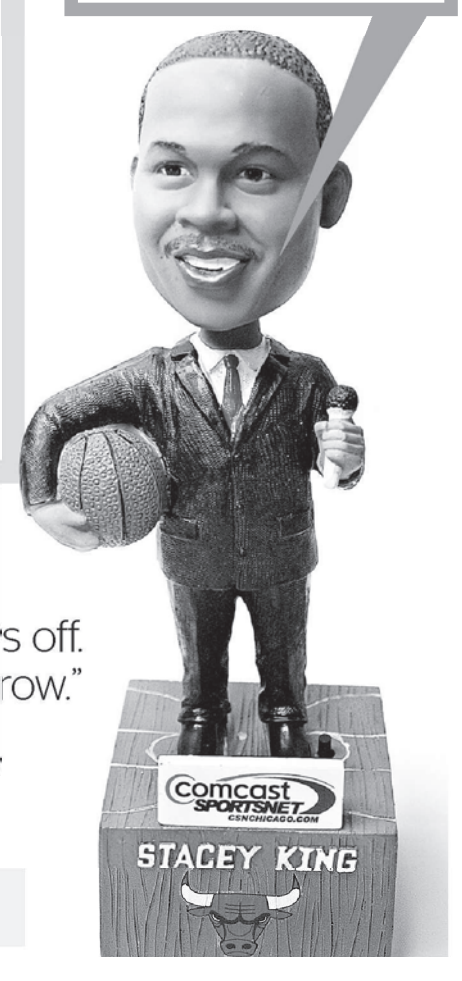
Howard
MCT

TAKE STACEY KING HOME

Bulls fans should get to the United Center early Friday night if they want the greatest fan giveaway ever: a talking Stacey King bobblehead. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. King, of course, is the Comcast SportsNet TV announcer who has made a name for himself with his enthusiastic and unique calls of Bulls games. The bobblehead, being handed out Friday while supplies last, says five of King's famous catchphrases.

"If you're scared, go buy a dog."

- "Did you not get the memo, he is from Chicago."
- "Too big, too strong, too fast, too good"
- "Stop it, don't do 'em like that."
- "Give me the hot sauce."



Shaq vs. Canseco—MMA-style

Jose Canseco's Twitter followers know the former baseball slugger has been calling out former NBA dunker Shaquille O'Neal for a while, challenging him to a fight. Shaq finally has responded. "I challenged him a long time ago. If he wants it done, he knows where to find me," O'Neal told Reuters on Tuesday. "He can be high off whatever, and I'll be high off Frosted Flakes." Uh, sure thing, Shaq.

THE MOUTHWATCH

"I'll be there. Don't worry about it. ... I took a few days off. I'll start hitting balls tomorrow."

—**Tiger Woods** on "Good Morning America" about appearing at The Masters. He left a tourney Sunday with a sore left Achilles.

THE DIGIT

50,000+ That's the number of tickets the Montreal Impact of the MLS says it has sold for its season-opener against the Fire at 2 p.m. Saturday at Olympic Stadium.

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Bradford Burgess celebrates VCU's win over Wichita State on Thursday. GETTY IMAGES

VCU shocks again

No. 5 seed Wichita State is tourney's first big upset

Reuters

Well, hello again, Cinderella.

Bradford Burgess scored 16 points against Wichita State, including the go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:30 left, to send VCU back to the NCAA Tournament's round of 32.

The 12th-seeded Rams (29-6), who as a No. 11 seed made an improbable run to the Final Four a season ago, took the first step toward a return trip by holding the high-powered Shockers to more than 18 points below their season scoring average.

No. 5 seed Wichita State, making its first NCAA Tournament appearance since 2006, finished 27-6.

The teams traded 3-pointers on four consecutive possessions with less than three minutes to play, the last one coming from Burgess for his first points of the second half to put VCU up 60-59 with 1:30 left.

With the game clock at 18 seconds and the shot clock at three, Darius Theus (10 points) got a friendly bounce on a runner in the lane that made it 62-59. Wichita State's last possession came down to a desperation 3-pointer by 7-foot center Garrett Stutz that was long.

VCU, which won its seventh consecutive game, built a lead as large as 13 points in the second half before the Shockers scored 26 of the next 37 points to grab their first lead of the second half at 59-57 on Toure Murry's 3-pointer from the corner. Joe Ragland led Wichita State with 15 points.

NCAA SCOREBOARD

SOUTH REGION

Kentucky 81, W. Kentucky 66
Indiana 79, New Mexico St. 66
Iowa St. 77, Connecticut 64
Baylor 68, South Dakota St. 60
UNLV vs. Colorado, late

WEST REGION

New Mexico 75, Long Beach St. 68
Louisville 69, Davidson 62
Murray St. 58, Colorado St. 41
Marquette 88, BYU 68

EAST REGION

Syracuse 72, UNC-Asheville 65
Kansas St. 70, S. Mississippi 64
Vanderbilt 79, Harvard 70
Wisconsin 73, Montana 49
Gonzaga 77, W. Virginia 54
Ohio St. vs. Loyola (Md.), late

THE FINISH LINE

» Arizona 12, Cubs (SS) 2 » Colorado 7, Cubs (SS) 5 » Cleveland 12, White Sox 3

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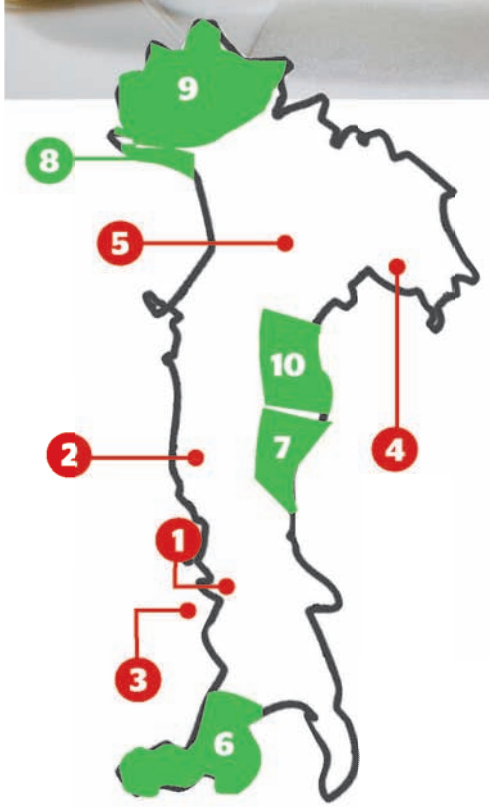

Italian invasion

Mapping the Italian inspirations of three new spots

By Lisa Arnett | REDEYE

Here's a tasty coincidence: Three of the spring's hottest restaurant openings just happen to draw inspiration from Italy. We took a closer look at a few dishes from each and, with the help of the chefs who created them, traced their flavors to different parts of the boot. LMARNETT@TRIBUNE.COM | @REDEYEEATS

RPM ITALIAN

52 W. Illinois St. 312-222-1888

Though it isn't obvious from the ultra-modern look of this sleek River North restaurant, the menu is laden with rustic Italian influences. It's also named for the last names of its owners: reality TV couple Bill Rancic and his Naples (1)-born wife, Giuliana, chef/partner Doug Psaltis and Lettuce Entertain You's Melman siblings (R.J., Jerrod and Molly), who also run nearby Paris Club and Hub 51.

Roman-style artichokes, *$11*

These crispy artichokes, fried until they open like flowers, are a traditional dish from Rome's (2) Jewish quarter. "The heart of the artichoke gets slightly steamed and gets great perfume from the olive oil," Psaltis said.

Whole-grilled branzino, *$29 per person*

When the Rancics got hitched in Capri (3), a picturesque island off Italy's Amalfi Coast, this dish was on the wedding menu. Also called European or Mediterranean sea bass, this wood-grilled fish is seasoned with "lots of Italian olive oil, some lemons and capers and some dried oregano and parsley," Psaltis said. "It's a dish that we all love here as well and we're so excited to be serving it."

Cicchetti, *$3-$5*

RPM's bustling bar is a centerpiece to the restaurant, so it's fitting that the menu features a section of cicchetti, snacks served in the bars of Venice (4). "We'll definitely have people who are hanging out having a glass of wine at the bar or having one of the great drinks, and these are things that we thought you can really just snack on there," Psaltis said. Options include peppers stuffed with provolone cheese, fava bean-topped crostini and fried spheres of rice called arancini.

MORE RECENTLY OPENED ITALIAN RESTAURANTS

Amoremia Cucina Italiana
3824 N. Kedzie Ave.
773-293-6628

Bar Toma
110 E. Pearson St.
312-266-3110

Filini
221 N. Columbus Dr 312-477-0234

Matto Fornaio
613 W. Briar Place
773-883-4411

Ombra
5308 N. Clark St.
773-506-8600

Ripasso
1619 N. Damen Ave.
773-342-8799

Grilled short ribs, *$13*
This meat dish channels a Korean barbecue style but is instead prepared with Calabrian **(6)** chilis and garum, a Roman-style **(2)** fish sauce.

BALENA *1633 N. Halsted St. 312-867-3888*

Chef Chris Pandel doesn't claim to be an expert on Italian food, but in creating the menu for this brand-new Lincoln Park restaurant (a collaboration between Boka Restaurant Group and Bucktown's The Bristol, where Pandel also works) he channeled the country's love for simple cooking. "It's the rusticity of something that's handmade and there's so much work that actually goes into it, but on the plate, it looks like there are only three ingredients hanging out together," he said.

Tajarin, *$14*
This super-thin pasta (1/12 of an inch, to be exact) made only with egg yolks and flour hails from the Piedmont region **(9)** and is traditionally served with sage and butter or a pork ragu. Pandel is cooking his version of the latter with pork, tomato, garlic and porcini mushrooms.

Bistecca Fiorentina
This super-size steak is named for the Florentine region and is "something you'd see across the board in Northern Italy," Pandel said. "It's just a beautiful charred piece of beef. It's about the quality of the beef and how simply it is prepared." Balena's steak is a 36-ounce market-price porterhouse charred over the wood grill and served simply with lemon, sea salt, olive oil and a head of roasted garlic. The restaurant's Universo grill, used to spit-roast porchetta and rabbit, also was imported from Florence **(5)**.

NELLCOTE *833 W. Randolph St. 312-432-0500*

Chef Jared Van Camp lured plenty of foodie fans with killer house-made charcuterie at Old Town Social before zigzagging around Europe as research for this West Loop restaurant from the same owners. Italian cuisine is just one of the inspirations for a menu that also nods to Spain and France.

Radiatore, *$10*
Van Camp first saw this noodle in Abruzzo **(7)**, a region of the country located east of Rome and bordering the Adriatic Sea. The noodle's ridge-covered shape helps it grab onto whatever sauce it's paired with, making it a match for a meaty ragu. At Nellcote, it's served with duck, mushrooms, yellow wax beans and duck cracklings. "Duck and mushrooms is a combination you see all the time in Liguria," **(8)** a region you'll find in the northwestern coast of Italy, Van Camp said. "We use hen-of-the-woods mushrooms and a Ligurian red wine called vermentino."

Mortadella pizza, *$10*
This pizza's inspiration comes from two very different parts of Italy. The crust is modeled off of a Neapolitan formula from the southern city of Naples **(1)**, while the pork sausage on top is modeled after mortadella, a traditional cured meat from Emilia-Romagna, a northern region of Italy. Joining the mortadella are pistachios, ricotta and shaved red onions.

Taglioni, *$10*
This fresh egg pasta usually is associated with Piedmont **(9)**, though Van Camp said you can find it in the Marche **(10)** region as well. He cuts the noodles to order and serves them with oysters, creme fraiche and prosecco, an Italian sparkling wine. "The eastern Mediterranean coast is far enough north to be a good habitat for some very tasty oysters," Van Camp says. "The prosecco lightens it up just a bit and adds a nice acidity."

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Hummingbird Kitchen - Vince DiBattista,
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HOT RIGHT NOW

5 THINGS TO KEEP ON YOUR RADAR | BY EMILY VAN ZANDT, REDEYE

Big Star *1531 N. Damen Ave. 773-235-4039*

With temps forecast in the 70s through the weekend, Wicker Park's most popular patio has opened early. Log on to **redeyechicago.com** for more bars and restaurants that have opened their outdoor spaces this week.

Balena *1633 N. Halsted St. 312-867-3888*

The Bristol's Chris Pandel puts his own spin on rustic Italian fare at this just-opened Lincoln Park restaurant. Turn to **Page 24** for more on his inspirations.

Troquet

1834 W. Montrose Ave.
773-334-5664

The owners of Lakeview's LM have given the short-lived Wolcott's space in North Center a Euro-centric makeover.

Estate Ultra Bar

1177 N. Elston Ave.
312-582-4777

Fancy-pants bar eats (think lobster mac and cake pops) have moved into the old Slow Down, Life's Too Short space along the river.

Ada Street

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INDIE BURGER PHOTO

PREVIEW: INDIE BURGER

Got a beef with the law?

By Erin Gibbons
FOR REDEYE

A new burger spot focused on "fresh eats and indie beats" is coming to Lakeview, and it's being brought to you by ... two lawyers?

Cyrus Rab said he and business partner Jeff Kopiwoda wanted to serve healthier, higher-quality food than the average fast-casual joint. The concept for Indie Burger was inspired by the independent, small-label sensibility of indie rock.

"We're like that for burgers," Rab said. "We're an independent alternative, not a corporate burger place."

Set to open Wednesday at 1034 W. Belmont Ave., the restaurant aims to stand apart from the better-burger crowd with organic grass-fed beef, house-cured beef bacon, organic greens and veggies, agave- and cane sugar-flavored sodas, and custom-made sweets delivered daily from Bleeding Heart Bakery. Rab said local and organic ingredients are used whenever possible, and the food is free of antibiotics, growth hormones, pesticides and other additives.

Higher-quality ingredients usually translate to higher prices, but all burgers and sandwiches are $7 or $8, and salads start at $6.

Staff members will use eco-friendly cleaning supplies and recycled paper towels, and will compost and recycle to create a virtually waste-free kitchen. The dining area is equally green, with seating made from recycled soda bottles, old church pews and reclaimed barn wood. Music-inspired touches include a wall covered with indie rock posters.

For the first few weeks, hours will be 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday. Next month, they'll start opening at 7 a.m. Monday through Friday for breakfast.

ERIN GIBBONS IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.
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movies

'21 Jump Street'

Jump back to school

FAST PAISED
Matt Pais
» mpais@tribune.com
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21 Jump Street
R

Part action movie spoof, part coming-of-age comedy and mostly hilarious, "21 Jump Street" gives the genre of "unexpected remakes of not especially significant '80s TV shows" a good name.

The cop drama that helped turned Johnny Depp into a heartthrob returns as a lightweight buddy movie in which Channing Tatum's Jenko is the street-smart partner to Jonah Hill's book-smart Schmidt. Those specialties don't get them very far when the young cops return to high school and accidentally mix up their new identities. It lands Jenko in the AP classes meant for Schmidt, who poses as Jenko's brother and participates in track and theater, where he quickly warms to a girl (Brie Larson) who pays him more attention than any member of the fairer sex did when Schmidt was a high school outcast.

That role reversal is the best decision writer Michael Bacall ("Project X"), who shares a story credit with Hill, makes in updating "21 Jump Street." It pushes both actors out of their comfort zones as Tatum reveals the insecurity that emerges when a former big man on campus becomes an outsider, and Hill embraces the in crowd but can't suppress the wounded 18-year-old inside.

Lest you think "21 Jump Street" represents some complicated, insightful portrait of teen life, keep in mind that Jenko and Schmidt's mission is to uncover a drug operation. That, of course, results in them ingesting the very item they're trying to remove from the school and hallucinating until a gym teacher's (Rob Riggle) head turns into an ice cream cone. Tatum's a better comic actor than he gets credit for, and he surely gives his all while Jenko, mid-drug freakout, jumps through a gong.

"21 Jump Street" can't resist a few too many dick jokes and its central plotline serves largely as a delivery system for rapid-fire, Judd Apatow-style humor that should take a breath and self-edit once in a while. Yet the movie's a consistent riot with a unique view of high school in 2012. Theater and environmentalism are cool and cruel, macho posturing is a thing of the past. It's almost enough to make you want to go back. Almost.

Silent House *R*
Elizabeth Olsen's a star.

John Carter *PG-13*
Oops.

Friends with Kids *R*
Good cast. Weak movie.

A Thousand Words *PG-13*
Bad. But not THAT bad.

CHECK IT OUT » Watch a video interview with "21 Jump Street" stars Channing Tatum and Jonah Hill at **redeyechicago.com**.

NOW SHOWING

Nicolas Cage

'Justice' neither smart nor dumb

Seeking Justice
R

Will (Nicolas Cage) clearly has not seen "The Box" or any other movies about making deals with the devil. Otherwise, following his wife's (January Jones) rape, Will might not accept the offer of a stranger named Simon (Guy Pearce) to kill the rapist free of charge. Well, free until Simon has to ask a favor of Will with consequences that, surprise, this English teacher has not considered.

With its pay-it-forward vigilante scheme, "Seeking Justice" becomes a mystery low on secrets and an ethical dilemma with no consideration of morality whatsoever.

Something exciting, or at least hilariously over-the-top, should automatically emerge when a movie features the typically bonkers Cage and a scene at a monster truck rally. Yet director Roger Donaldson ("The Bank Job") never cracks a smile at the generic, sinister bald guy who assists Simon or the covert organization's secret code phrase, "The hungry rabbit jumps."

movies

Riggle me this: Actor's keeping 'teens' in line

By Matt Pais | REDEYE

Consider yourself lucky, Newt Gingrich. If Rob Riggle were still on "The Daily Show," he would be all over you.

"I think there's a lot—and I don't mean this in a mean way—but I think there's just a lot of meat on the bone," says Riggle, who plays a gym teacher at the high school infiltrated by cops Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum in "21 Jump Street," opening Friday.

There's been a lot of meat on the comedian's resume lately. Since leaving "The Daily Show" a little more than three years ago, Riggle has appeared in "The Hangover," "The Other Guys," "Step Brothers" and much more. He's also developing a show with HBO and expects to be back in Chicago this summer doing stand-up.

At Trump Tower, the 41-year-old Marine veteran talked about his latest film.

You witness Jonah and Chan's characters in the middle of a drug-induced hallucination. How do you prepare for having your head replaced by a talking ice cream cone?
[Laughs.] You spend a lot of time studying acting and the craft and the art so hopefully your head can one day be replaced by an ice cream cone. And you just hope it works out. That's really all it comes down to.

Not much ice cream-related research?
Yeah, I mean, I'm not going to lie: I spent a lot of time eating ice cream. A lot of time eating ice cream. Baskin Robbins. All 31 flavors.

You talked about using comedy as a defense mechanism when you were growing up and being voted "most humorous" in high school. What memories did "21 Jump Street" bring back?
When we went into those high schools to film, I don't know if it's the cleaning products they use, the Pine Sol smell, or what it is—the smell of the gymnasium—it just instantly takes you back to that time in your life when you were there in school. But everything seems smaller. The lockers seem smaller. Everything just seemed reduced. I just had that memory, that rush, you feel like you're back in school.

If you were really a gym teacher, what would be your catchphrase?
I think I would just sit there in my lawn chair with my whistle going (makes whistle noise), "Come on, guys, quit bein' lazy! Another lap!" And they'd be like, "Come on, Mr. Riggle." "You heard me; another lap."

How do you and Ice Cube compare in the badass department?
Cube is a badass, and I am a poseur. [Laughs.]

How are you a poseur?
Well, no, I'm not a poseur, but he's got street cred. He's lived the life. He's the real deal.

You're a decorated officer.
Yeah, I know, I know. They're apples and oranges. And both are delicious! But they're different.

» Watch Rob's video interview at **redeyechicago.com**

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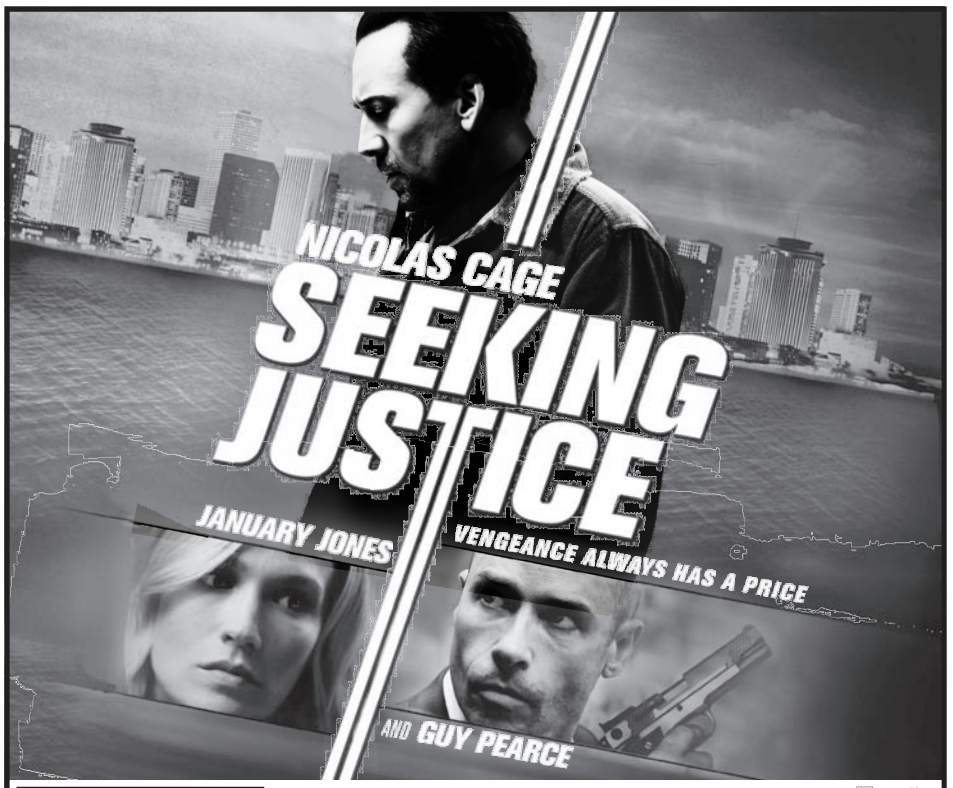
Rob Riggle's character from "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart."
AP FILE PHOTO



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- **John Carter** (PG–13) 1:10,4:15
- **Wanderlust** (R) 11:20,4:20,9:25
- **The Vow** (PG–13) 1:50,6:50
- **Safe House** (R) ◆ 10:25,1:20,4:10,7:00,9:45
- **This Means War** (PG–13) 10:10,12:30,2:55,5:20,7:45,10:05
- **Project X** (R) ◆ 10:35,12:50,3:20,5:40,8:05,10:25
- **Tyler Perry's Good Deeds** (PG–13) ◆ 11:00,1:40,4:30,7:10,9:50
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D** (PG) 10:00,2:40,7:30
- **Silent House** (R) 10:45,1:00,3:35,5:55,8:15,10:30
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) 12:20,5:00,9:40
- **John Carter 3D** (PG–13) 10:05,7:20,10:20
- **21 Jump Street** (R) 11:40,2:20,5:10,7:55,10:35

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- **Salmon Fishing in the Yemen** (PG–13) 1:35,4:20,7:15,9:45
- **Being Flynn** (R) 1:55,4:40,7:10,9:40
- **The Artist** (PG–13) 2:30,5:00,7:30,9:55
- **Undefeated** (PG–13) 1:50,4:30,7:15,9:50
- **Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy** (R) 2:20,5:30,8:30
- **Footnote** (PG) 1:30,4:10,7:20,10:00
- **Jeff, Who Lives at Home** (R) 1:45,4:25,7:00,9:35

CITY NORTH 14 (REGAL)
2600 N. Western Ave.
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- **The Hunger Games** (PG–13) Advance Tickets Available
- **21 Jump Street** (R) 12:00,2:40,5:20,8:15,11:00
- **21 Jump Street** (R) 11:30,2:10,4:50,6:30,7:30,9:50,10:30
- **Casa de Mi Padre** (R) 12:50,3:20,5:40,7:55,10:40
- **John Carter 3D** (PG–13) 12:15,1:00,3:30,4:25,6:40,7:40,9:45,10:50
- **John Carter** (PG–13) 11:40,3:00,6:10,9:15
- **A Thousand Words** (PG–13) 2:00,4:30,7:00,9:20
- **Silent House** (R) 11:50,2:20,5:00,7:40,10:00
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D** (PG) 11:20,1:40,4:20,6:50,9:10
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) 3:30,5:50,8:35
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) (Open captioned) 1:10
- **Project X** (R) 12:10,2:30,5:10,7:50,10:20
- **Wanderlust** (R) 10:55
- **Act of Valor** (R) 12:40,3:40,6:40,9:30
- **Safe House** (R) 12:20,3:10,6:20,9:00
- **Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D** (PG) 1:20,3:50

DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)
4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago
(773) 784-0893

- **21 Jump Street** (R) ★ 5:30,7:45,10:10
- **John Carter** (PG–13) ★ 7:10,10:00
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) 5:15,7:15,9:15
- **The Artist** (PG–13) 5:15,7:30,9:50

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- **John Carter** (PG–13) 10:25,1:45
- **Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance** (PG–13) 11:05,1:35,4:10,6:50,9:30
- **Safe House** (R) 10:45,1:55,4:45,7:45,10:30
- **Project X** (R) 10:10,12:35,3:00,5:20,7:30,9:55
- **Tyler Perry's Good Deeds** (PG–13) 10:40,1:30,4:15,7:15,10:10
- **Chronicle** (PG–13) 10:50 A.M.
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D** (PG) ◆ 11:30,1:10,2:10,3:45, 4:50,7:40,9:00,10:00
- AMC Independent **Casa de Mi Padre** (R) 11:10,1:50,4:30,7:05,9:40
- **Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D** (PG) 1:20,4:05,7:00,9:35
- **Silent House** (R) ◆ 10:30,12:50,3:10,5:35,8:00,10:30
- **A Thousand Words** (PG–13) 10:20,1:00,3:50,6:40,9:20
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) ◆ 10:35,11:00,1:40,4:20,6:35,7:10,9:50
- **John Carter 3D** (PG–13) 10:55,2:20,5:10,5:40,8:40,9:10
- **21 Jump Street** (R) ◆ 10:15,1:05,4:00,7:20,10:05

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- **A Separation** (PG–13) 1:40,4:20,7:00,9:30
- **Kill List** (NR) 5:20,9:40
- **The Long Day Closes** (PG) 7:30 P.M.
- **Once Upon A Time in Anatolia** (NR) 2:10 P.M.
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- **John Carter** (PG–13) 2:15,5:30
- **Wanderlust** (R) 4:45,10:10
- **Wanderlust** (R) (Closed caption) 4:45,10:10
- **The Vow** (PG–13) 2:00,7:25
- **The Vow** (PG–13) (Closed caption) 2:00,7:25
- **Safe House** (R) 10:25,1:15,4:15,7:10,10:15
- **Safe House** (R) (Closed caption) 10:25,1:15,4:15,7:10,10:15
- AMC Independent **The Descendants** (R) 1:30,7:05
- AMC Independent **The Artist** (PG–13) ◆ 10:10,12:50, 3:25,5:55,8:30,11:00
- **Project X** (R) 11:25,1:40,4:00,6:20,8:40,11:00
- AMC Independent **The Iron Lady** (PG–13) 10:50,1:25,4:05,6:45,9:30
- **Tyler Perry's Good Deeds** (PG–13) 10:45,4:20,9:55
- **Act of Valor** (R) 11:30,2:10,4:55,7:45,10:40
- **Act of Valor** (R) (Closed caption) 11:30,2:10,4:55,7:45,10:40
- AMC Independent **Jeff, Who Lives at Home** (R) ◆ 11:00,1:25,3:50,6:15,8:40,11:00
- AMC Independent **Justice** (R) 11:40,2:25,5:10,7:55,10:40
- AMC Independent **Friends With Kids** (R) ◆ 11:10, 2:00,4:45,7:35,10:20
- AMC Independent **Salmon Fishing in the Yemen** (PG–13) 11:55,2:20,5:00,7:40,10:35
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D** (PG) 10:40,1:05,3:30,6:05,8:30,10:55
- AMC Independent **Casa de Mi Padre** (R) 10:00, 12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30
- **Silent House** (R) 10:15,12:45,3:15,5:45,8:15,10:45
- **A Thousand Words** (PG–13) ◆ 10:30,1:00,3:30,6:00,8:30,11:00
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) 11:40,2:05,4:30,7:05,9:30
- **John Carter 3D** (PG–13) ◆ 10:00,11:00,1:15,4:30,7:40,8:40,10:45
- **21 Jump Street** (R) ◆ 10:15,11:15,1:15,2:15,4:15,5:15, 7:15,8:15,10:00,11:00
- **Hugo 3D** (PG) ◆ 10:15,1:10,4:20,7:30,10:40

SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING (AMC)
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- **John Carter** (PG–13) 11:50,6:35
- **Wanderlust** (R) 12:40,5:35,10:40
- **The Vow** (PG–13) 10:15,1:00,3:55,6:45,9:40
- **Safe House** (R) 10:40,1:40,4:35,7:50,10:50
- AMC Independent **The Artist** (PG–13) 10:10,3:05,8:10
- **Project X** (R) 10:20,12:45,3:20,5:45,8:25,11:00
- **Act of Valor** (R) 10:35,1:30,4:10,7:00,10:00
- AMC Independent **Jeff, Who Lives at Home** (R) 11:35,2:10,4:40,7:20,9:55
- **John Carter: An IMAX 3D Experience** (PG–13) 10:05,1:25,4:50,8:15,11:15
- AMC Independent **Justice** (R) 11:55,2:55,5:40,8:35,11:25
- AMC Independent **Friends With Kids** (R) 11:25,2:15,5:05,8:00,11:10
- **Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance 3D** (PG–13) 8:15,10:50
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D** (PG) 10:00,10:45,12:30, 1:10,3:10,3:50,5:50,6:30,9:10
- AMC Independent **Casa de Mi Padre** (R) 10:00, 12:35,3:15,5:45,8:20,10:55
- **Silent House** (R) 10:50,1:20,3:40,6:15,8:50,11:20
- **A Thousand Words** (PG–13) 10:30,1:15,3:45,6:20,9:00
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) 11:30,1:50,4:30,7:10,9:50
- **John Carter 3D** (PG–13) 3:00,9:45
- **21 Jump Street** (R) 10:45,11:45,1:45,2:45,4:45,5:40,7:45, 8:40,10:45,11:30

WEBSTER PLACE 11 (REGAL)
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(800) 326-3264 #1641

- **The Hunger Games** (PG–13) Advance Tickets Available
- **John Carter 3D** (PG–13) 1:00,2:30,4:10,7:30,9:00,10:35
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D** (PG) 2:40,5:10,8:00,10:20
- **21 Jump Street** (R) 1:20,1:50,4:00,4:50,5:30,7:00,7:40, 8:20,9:50,10:40
- **Seeking Justice** (R) 1:15,4:15,7:15,10:15
- **Friends With Kids** (R) 1:40,4:20,7:10,10:00
- **John Carter** (PG–13) 5:50 P.M.
- **Silent House** (R) 1:10,3:30,5:40,7:50,10:25
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) 2:10,4:30,7:20
- **Project X** (R) 1:30,3:50,6:40,9:20
- **Wanderlust** (R) 9:55
- **Hugo 3D** (PG) 2:20 P.M.

SHOWPLACE GALEWOOD 14 (AMC)
E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1646

- **John Carter** (PG–13) 10:00,1:05
- **Safe House** (R) 10:30,1:15,4:05,7:00,9:45
- **Project X** (R) 11:00,1:30,4:00,6:30,9:00
- **Tyler Perry's Good Deeds** (PG–13) 10:45,1:40,4:35,7:25,10:15
- **Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance 3D** (PG–13) 10:00,12:25,3:00,5:15,7:45,10:10
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D** (PG) 11:15,12:00,2:30,4:15, 5:00,7:30,9:15,10:00
- AMC Independent **Casa de Mi Padre** (R) 11:25,2:00,4:30,7:00,9:30
- **Silent House** (R) 11:30,1:55,4:20,6:40,9:05
- **A Thousand Words** (PG–13) 11:45,2:15,4:45,7:20,9:55
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) 10:35,1:00,1:45,3:25,6:00,6:45,8:25
- **John Carter 3D** (PG–13) 12:05,3:10,4:10,6:15,7:15,9:20,10:20
- **21 Jump Street** (R) 10:10,11:10,1:00,2:00,3:50,4:50,6:40, 7:40,9:30,10:30

SHOWPLACE CICERO 14 (AMC)
4779 W. Cermak., Cicero
(800) 326-3264 #1644

- **John Carter** (PG–13) 12:20,3:45
- **The Vow** (PG–13) 2:00 P.M.
- **Safe House** (R) 4:40,7:40,10:40
- **Journey 2: The Mysterious Island** (PG) 11:20,2:05
- **Project X** (R) 10:45,1:05,3:40,6:15,8:45,11:15
- **Tyler Perry's Good Deeds** (PG–13) 11:10,4:50
- **Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance 3D** (PG–13) 10:20,12:50,3:30,6:00,11:10
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D** (PG) 10:00,11:00,1:30,3:00, 4:00,6:30,8:00,9:00
- AMC Independent **Casa de Mi Padre** (R) 10:15, 12:30,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15,11:35
- **Silent House** (R) 10:15,12:45,3:15,5:45,8:15,10:45
- **A Thousand Words** (PG–13) 10:00,12:05,2:30,5:00,7:30,10:00
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) 11:45,12:30,2:15,4:45,5:30, 7:15,9:45,10:30
- **John Carter 3D** (PG–13) 10:00,1:15,4:30,7:00,7:45,10:15,11:00
- **21 Jump Street** (R) 10:30,11:30,1:30,2:30,4:30,5:30,7:30, 8:30,10:30,11:30

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(312) 564-2104

- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D** (PG) 10:10,11:50,12:50,2:40, 3:40,5:10,6:10,8:30
- **John Carter 3D** (PG–13) ★ 10:20,12:30,1:20,3:30,4:20, 6:30,7:20,9:30,10:20
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) 10:50,1:40,4:10
- **21 Jump Street** (R) ★ 10:00,12:40,3:20,6:00,7:10,7:50,8:40, 9:50,10:45,11:20
- **Project X** (R) 11:30,2:30,5:15,8:10,11:00
- **Safe House** (R) 10:45,1:30,4:30,7:30,10:30
- **A Thousand Words** (PG–13) ★ (Closed caption) 10:15,1:00,3:45,6:50,9:40
- **Tyler Perry's Good Deeds** (PG–13) 11:00,1:50,4:45,7:45,10:40
- **Act of Valor** (R) 11:10,2:00,4:50,8:00,10:50
- **Jeff, Who Lives at Home** (R) (Closed caption) 10:40,1:10,3:50,6:20,8:50,11:10
- **Silent House** (R) ★ 11:15,1:45,4:00,6:40,9:15
- **Friends With Kids** (R) ★ (Closed caption) 11:40,2:20,5:00,7:40,10:15
- **Seeking Justice** (R) ★ 10:30,1:15,4:15,7:00,10:00
- **Casa de Mi Padre** (R) ★ (Closed caption) 11:20,2:10,4:40,7:15,9:45

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- **John Carter 3D** (PG–13) ★ ***VIP Premium 21+*** 10:20, 1:20,4:20,7:20,10:20
- **21 Jump Street** (R) ★ ***VIP Premium 21+*** 10:00,12:40, 3:20,6:00,8:40,11:20

OAK PARK
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1022 Lake Street, Oak Park
(630) 444-FILM #560

- **John Carter** (PG–13) ★ 4:00
- **Project X** (R) 1:25,3:30,5:35,7:40,9:45
- **Tyler Perry's Good Deeds** (PG–13) 1:45,4:10,6:35,9:00
- **Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy** (R) 1:00,3:45,6:45,9:30
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D** (PG) 12:00,2:05,4:10,6:15,8:20
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) 1:00,3:05,5:10,7:15,9:20
- **John Carter 3D** (PG–13) ★ 1:10,6:50,9:40
- **21 Jump Street** (R) ★ 12:05,2:30,4:55,7:20,9:45

EVANSTON
CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)
1715 Maple Ave., Evanston
(847) 492-0123

- **21 Jump Street** (R) 11:00,1:40,4:20,7:00,9:40
- **A Separation** (PG–13) 1:35,4:25,7:15,10:05
- **The Artist** (PG–13) 12:15,2:45,5:05,7:45,10:15
- **The Secret World of Arrietty** (G) 2:20,7:35
- **Safe House** (R) 11:35,4:55,10:25
- **Seeking Justice** (R) 12:25,2:55,5:30,8:05,10:40
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax** (PG) 1:00,3:35,5:55,8:15,10:35
- **Project X** (R) 11:05,1:15,3:30,5:45,8:00,10:40
- **John Carter** (PG–13) 1:10,4:15,7:20,10:20
- **21 Jump Street** (R) 12:20,3:00,5:35,8:20
- **A Thousand Words** (PG–13) 12:40,3:05,5:20,7:40,10:00
- **Salmon Fishing in the Yemen** (PG–13) 11:05,1:50,4:30,7:05,9:50
- **Jeff, Who Lives at Home** (R) 12:45,3:00,5:15,7:30,9:45
- **Casa de Mi Padre** (R) 11:30,1:45,4:00,6:15,8:30,10:45
- **Friends With Kids** (R) 11:50,2:35,5:10,7:50,10:30
- **Being Flynn** (R) 11:45,2:15,4:50,7:25,9:55
- **Footnote** (PG) 11:10,1:40,4:10,6:50,9:25
- **Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D** (PG) 12:10,2:30,4:45,7:10,9:30
- **John Carter 3D** (PG–13) 11:40,2:40,5:40,8:40

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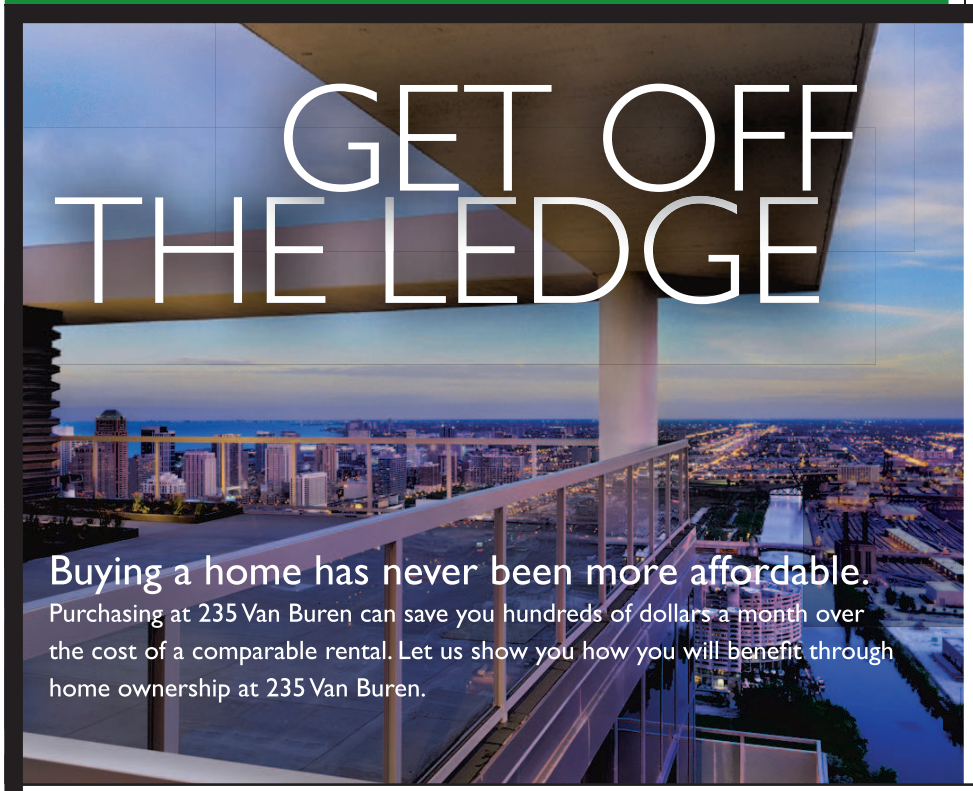

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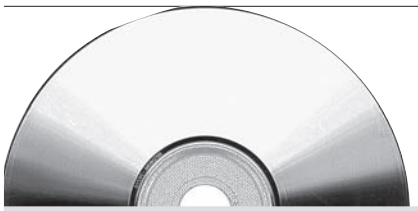

NEW ON DVD

By Rick Bentley and Rich Heldenfels | MCT
Oscar-nominated films and a first-rate performance by a former Oscar winner top this week's DVD releases.

The Adventures of Tintin

Not since the movie "1941" has Steven Spielberg created a movie that's so visually impressive—but a disappointment in terms of story and performance—as "The Adventures of Tintin." While there are times when the movie rivals his adventurous efforts in "Indiana Jones," the production keeps getting knocked off its feet by a story that is overly complex. There's also the slight creepiness of the motion-capture animation process used to film the actors.

EXTRAS: 11 behind-the-scenes features

Young Adult

Director Jason Reitman and writer Diablo Cody established themselves as creative forces to reckon with when they made "Juno" in 2007. The pair has reunited for "Young Adult," and while their latest effort doesn't have the same brass, crass or sass as their first collaboration, the film is a compelling look at the expectations of life and the realities of living it. Charlize Theron turns in a first-rate performance creating a character that you will both love and love to hate. Her bouts with emotional delusions makes her sympathetic, shown in scenes with former classmate Matt (Patton Oswalt), who loved Mavis from afar in high school.

EXTRAS: Filmmakers commentary, deleted scenes, behind-the-scenes feature

The Descendants

Simply put, this is a great movie. George Clooney turns in an Oscar-worthy performance as Matt King, a man who too often has put work ahead of family. All his plans to make up for lost time run out when his wife is left in a coma after a speedboat accident. King must deal with her impending death, try to reconnect with his distant daughters, face some ugly realities about his marriage and take a serious look at how much family values are really worth.

Director Alexander Payne sets a smooth tempo for the film. Because he doesn't rush scenes, the actors have time to play out their performances and create more texture. Payne has no problem allowing the camera to linger, a task made easier when the performances are this good. Clooney and Shailene Woodley, who plays Matt's teenage daughter, are great, but their performances become brilliant because of the script by Payne, Nat Faxon and Jim Rash, based on the novel by Kaui Hart Hemmings.

EXTRAS: Three behind-the-scenes features

My Week with Marilyn

Speaking of the Oscars, Michelle Williams was among the nominees for best actress for playing Marilyn Monroe in this drama based on Colin Clark's memoir of being a gofer on "The Prince and the Showgirl," a film starring Monroe and Laurence Olivier (Kenneth Branagh). It's one of the more notorious productions in screen history because Monroe and Olivier (who was also directing "Prince") clashed over acting approaches and her personal habits. Williams is quite good. She has a real gift for conveying Monroe's vulnerability and charm without slipping into pure imitation. But the movie itself is not as accomplished, since Clark (Eddie Redmayne) is often on the sidelines of events—and I have little interest in his Learning A Valuable Lesson when there are far more interesting characters onscreen.

EXTRAS: Director commentary, behind-the-scenes feature

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Before explaining anything about the largely joke-free comedy "The FP," let's go to the numbers.

2: Number of used condoms thrown
78: Approximate number of times someone is called "bitch"
396: Estimated number of times white people call each other the N-word, which is apparently extra funny because one character claims he is "Never Ignorant Getting Goals Accomplished." Take note of the acronym for that phrase. Or don't.

Riffing on '80s dance movies such as "Breakin'" that no one took seriously in the first place, "The FP" also doesn't seem to realize that no one has talked about "Dance Dance Revolution" since, I don't know, Justin Timberlake left N'Sync. So centering a near-futuristic sci-fi/action flick on a dance video game called "Beat-Beat Revelation," which can kill a player who loses badly enough, carries as much cleverness as the game spouting lines such as "mad whack" or the film using multiple training montages to illustrate the abundance of training montages in movies like this.

The FP
R

'The FP'

Get it? "The FP" means to be terrible, and it is. Co-writer/co-director Jason Trost stars as eye patch-wearing JTRO, who swears off "Beat-Beat Revelation" after it kills his brother. Needless to say, JTRO makes a comeback to avenge his brother and calm tensions between rival factions. People talk repeatedly about street cred and say "For realz," which I can only assume the script spellz with a z.

The "South Park" episode about a deadly dance-off kills me. "The FP" offers morons in fingerless gloves who barely know what they're joking about. If you give this garbage 80 minutes of your life, you deserve to get served.

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☐ "A rapid-fire crowd-pleaser." LOGAN HILL, New York
☐ "★★★½ Indelibly funny...the cast could not be better." PETER TRAVERS, Rolling Stone
☑ All of the above.

friends with kids
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JENNIFER WESTFELDT
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UNFORGIVABLE Sat 7:00 & Wed 6:00
LUXEMBOURG
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◀ HOT HOT HOT Fri 6:15 & Thu 8:30
POLAND
Silver Lion winner at Venice! Tense, low-key thriller
THE CHRISTENING Sun 7:00 & Thu 8:30
Jonathan Rosenbaum in person Monday!
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AITA Sun 5:00 & Mon 6:00 (w/ Rosenbaum discussion)

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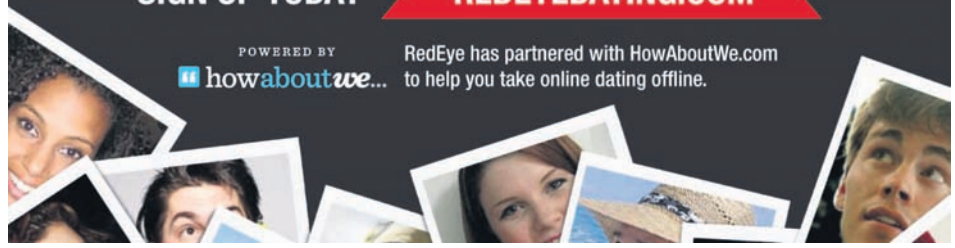

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Ed Helms (left) and Jason Segel in 'Jeff, Who Lives at Home'

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Jeff, Who Lives at Home *R*

At some point in their lives, everyone believes they should follow the "signs" that the universe presents and see where they lead.

That's still what 30-year-old, mom's-basement-dwelling Jeff (Jason Segel) thinks, and that philosophy leads him on a wild escapade around Baton Rouge, where his brother (Ed Helms) suspects his wife (Judy Greer) is having an affair. The guys' mom (Susan Sarandon) also wonders which work colleague is sending her instant messages, claiming to be her secret admirer.

Writer-directors Mark and Jay Duplass (the wonderful "The Puffy Chair") started strong and wrote themselves into a corner with 2010's "Cyrus." With "Jeff" they start in the corner and never get out, wrapping a weak idea around characters that spend too much time as Dopey and Grouchy.

What's meant to be a slacker adventure about destiny and living with purpose becomes an irritating, forced indie dramedy about foolish characters who let what happens at the end of the day justify everything that came before. That's not fate; that's asking for trouble.

Throw away your invitation to this petty party

Footnote *PG*

For decades, professor Eliezer Shkolnik (Shlomo Bar-Aba) has dreamt of receiving the prestigious Israel Prize for his Talmudic research. Instead, he's passed over while his son Uriel (Lior Ashkenazi) earns other academic accolades Eliezer never has. To say the guy's bitter is an understatement; throughout "Footnote," Eliezer's facial expressions consist of "constipated" and "slightly less constipated."

There's plenty of merit in scholastic competition, and the Coen brothers' extraordinary "A Serious Man" showed how compelling the inner-workings of Jewish study can be. Full of pity and devoid of impact, "Footnote" chronicles a bitter, non-supportive pouter and a son who wants to do right by him anyway. Delete.

Shlomo Bar-Aba in 'Footnote'

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movies

No gracias, Will Ferrell

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Will Ferrell's absurd delivery constitutes much of what makes him hilarious. So the actor speaking Spanish, no matter how enthusiastic his declaration of "Quiero la muchacha!," risks minimizing the laughs that the big galoot can't generate with his face and often-unclothed body. And since the posters for "Casa de Mi Padre" claim it's the "funniest movie you'll ever read," clearly co-producers Ferrell and Adam McKay ("Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy") expect most of the audience to need the subtitles.

The problem: This occasionally amusing, feature-length skit doesn't give enough people enough funny lines to say in any language.

Back in "Step Brothers" mode as a disappointment compared to his brother, Raul (Diego Luna), Ferrell stars as Armando, a rancher who accidentally killed his mother as a young boy. (Feel free to let me know in what culture that's funny.) With no female prospects despite a bevy of beautiful maids at his house, Armando cares more for baby cows than women until Raul's fiance Sonia (Genesis Rodriguez), displays an appreciation for Armando's romantic streak.

Often "Casa" giggles at the low production values and melodramatics of Mexican telenovelas. Sometimes the relatively restrained movie (by Ferrell standards) just thinks it's funny because it's in Spanish. Frequently the deliberately cliche Western wastes time telling a story about Raul's war with a rival drug dealer (Gael Garcia Bernal), at which point the movie barely counts as a comedy. Maybe writer Andrew Steele ("The Ladies Man") thought Ferrell's presence would keep things light at all times, but a mid-wedding ceremony massacre tends to darken the mood.

Genesis Rodriguez and Will Ferrell in "Casa de Mi Padre."

Casa de Mi Padre *R*

The fundamental joke is not so nice either. Whether Armando and Sonia sing a song consisting only of the word "La" or a DEA agent (Nick Offerman) asks, "Do you speak American?," ignorance toward Mexican culture serves as the main punchline without many characters or jokes to question, rather than encourage, racism and sexism.

By now movies such as "I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry" should have established the poor judgment of pointing and laughing for 90 minutes only to close with, "Lesson learned. No hard feelings?"

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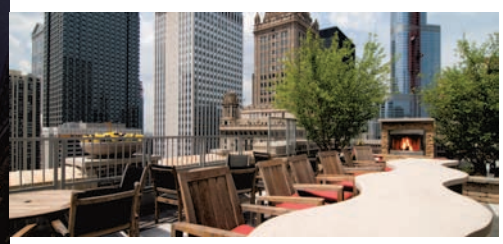

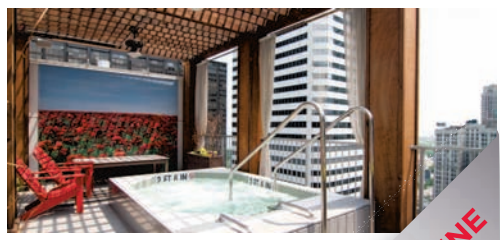

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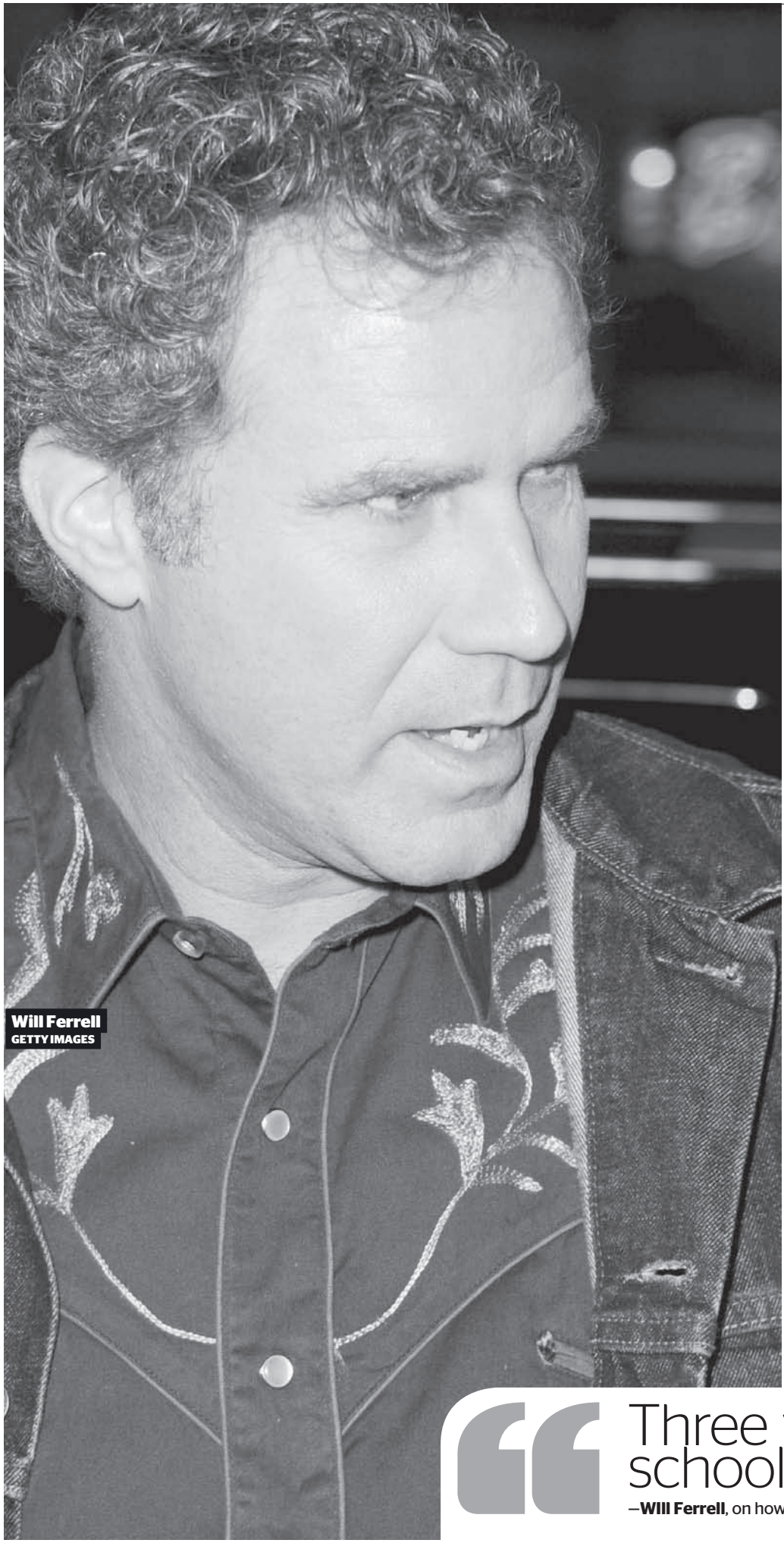

Will Ferrell
GETTY IMAGES

Casa de Will

'Posibilidades' in Spanish-language comedy with Ferrell

MCT

You could call 2010 Will Ferrell's "Year of Living Dangerously." Not that he sees it that way.

"I had a year when a couple of big studio pictures kind of fell apart," he says. "That gave me a window to do some smaller, different things."

Those "smaller, different things" included the critically-acclaimed "Everything Must Go," which earned him some of the best reviews of his career and praise for taking risks. "A superstar like Ferrell could coast through disposable comedies," the St. Louis Dispatch noted. But at 44, the high priest of film's "frat pack" doesn't.

"Casa de Mi Padre," opening Friday, is the other film he shot back in 2010, a Spanish-language parody of telenovelas (Latin American soap operas) and Mexicanized spaghetti Westerns. Ferrell stars as the good-hearted, slow-witted "other son" of a Mexican ranch owner, a man whose land is menaced by drug lords.

MORE
Read Matt Pais' review of "Casa de Mi Padre" on **PAGE 40**.

Ferrell would be surrounded with Spanish-speaking co-stars of great repute—Gael Garcia Bernal, Diego Luna, Genesis Rodriguez. And he'd be speaking—and acting—in Spanish. Dangerous ground—risky, or as they say in Espanol, peligroso, arriesgado.

"Three years of Spanish in high school and a semester in college," Ferrell says, laughing at his suitability for this project. What was he thinking?

"I sat down with him, the writer and the director and they pitched me the idea," Diego Luna says. Luna was to play Ferrell's character's "bad seed" brother. "I said, 'This will be in Spanish? Really? How is your Spanish?' And Will said two words, and I thought 'No WAY this will work. It will be a disaster.' But a month later, he came back FLUENT. He just knew his lines in Spanish, but the accent, the inflection, VERY impressive."

"Casa de Mi Padre," with its mix of love, sex, betrayal and violence, "was an idea I'd had years ago," Ferrell says. "Never got around to it. Then I heard somebody else was writing a telenovela comedy and I thought, "You know what? If I don't execute this idea, I'm going to see somebody else's version of it in theaters.' And I would HATE to be sitting there watching that, knowing the opportunity I'd missed."

Ferrell worked on his lines, worked with a coach and learned how to roll his "R's." He brought that to the set—often cheap, painted backdrop sets with fake horses, mismatched backgrounds and ineptly placed props. Luna, 32, got his acting start in telenovelas in his native Mexico and says the film's affectionate mockery of the genre is what drew him in.

"The physicality of the characters is so exaggerated!" Luna says. "Everything they do is BIG. It's a fun thing to do, as an actor, that thing you have been trying so hard to stop yourself from doing your whole life!"

Ferrell, no stranger to political incorrectness, might have worried about crossing the line into ethnic mockery with "Casa de Mi Padre." But when Luna and Bernal and veteran Mexican actor Pedro Armendariz Jr. signed on, he knew he was in the clear.

"Getting people of that caliber to be in it told us we were onto something," Ferrell says. "I think even fans of telenovelas love them for how cheesy they are."

Luna figures Ferrell has a future in telenovelas if the Hollywood thing doesn't work out. "Look at him in this movie. Speaking Spanish, acting in that style, it changed him, man."

> "Three years of Spanish in high school and a semester in college."
> —**Will Ferrell**, on how much language he studied in school

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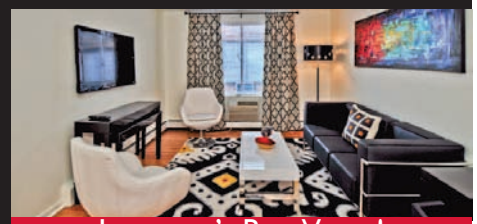
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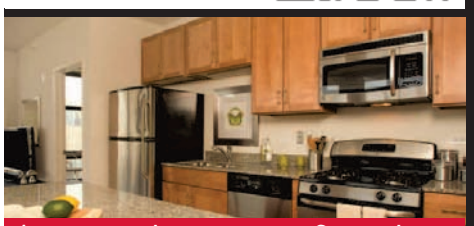
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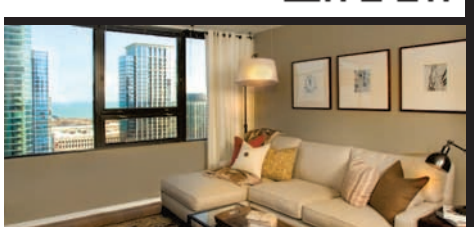
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movies

Jason Segel: Nice guy finishing 1st

Jason Segel
GETTY IMAGES FILE

MCT

Jason Segel may be the writer-star of hit movies such as "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" and "The Muppets," but he still sounds as sweet as awkward teen Nick Andopolis, his character on the TV series "Freaks and Geeks."

"I think it's really neat that I'm an actor, all that stuff," Segel said by phone. "I think the real goal is just to be nice."

From anyone else, this could seem saccharine. But coming from Segel, it's just about being a decent guy. "There is a way to proceed in this world in a very positive and nice way and do everything you want to do," he said.

Currently, Segel is appearing in "The Muppets" and his regular role on CBS's "How I Met Your Mother," and soon in the romantic comedy "The Five-Year Engagement." It will kick off the Tribeca Film Festival on April 18. Opening Friday is "Jeff, Who Lives at Home," which also stars Ed Helms, Susan Sarandon and Judy Greer in a gently quirky R-rated comedy that charts the unexpected moments of everyday life. (See Matt Pais' review on **Page 38**.)

"I don't sleep very much," Segel said. "I work constantly. I really do."

In February, Segel attended the Oscars, where "Man or Muppet," which he sang in "The Muppets," won for best song. One of the highlights was seeing so many of his comedy friends there.

"Ten years ago, when we all met, we were dreaming of this and it seemed impossible. ... And now me and Jonah [Hill] and Seth [Rogen] are starring in movies. How weird is that?"

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An Apple a day

Chicago Tribune

Have you missed her? We've missed her.

Brilliant and crazy, indulgent and indulged, Fiona Apple occasionally makes some of the best albums of the past 20 years. It's been so long, especially in Internet time, since her last one, that any student who was starting college the year "Extraordinary Machine" was released might now have a master's degree. Or two.

These days, Apple is mostly remembered as a quarrelsome singer who complains a lot, who famously melted down during a technically plagued show at New York City's Roseland Ballroom in 2000, and who occasionally releases albums.

Apple recently announced that her fourth full-length disc, "The Idler Wheel is wiser than the Driver of the Screw, and Whipping Cords will serve you more than Ropes will ever do," will be released in June. In honor of her sold-out shows at Lincoln Hall, one of a handful of warm-up club dates in the run-up to the album's release, we've compiled a Fiona Apple Refresher Guide. If her new album really does come out this summer (we'd put the odds at 50-50), you're going to need it.

Fiona Apple By The Numbers

4 Average number of years in between full-length albums: (assuming "The Idler Wheel ..." is released this year)

6 years, 5 months Length of time since Apple's last LP, "Extraordinary Machine."

46 Approximate number of protesters at a Manhattan "Free Fiona" protest in 2005, held to encourage Apple's label to release "Extraordinary Machine."

90 Number of words in the title of Apple's sophomore effort, commonly known as "When the Pawn..."

IV The "Karate Kid" sequel Apple has said she was once close to starring in, probably referring to a role that went to Hilary Swank: "The Karate Kid Part IV" (otherwise known as "The Next Karate Kid")

APPLE'S TOP 5 MOST CONTROVERSIAL QUOTES

"This world is [bleep], and you shouldn't model your life about what you think that we think is cool and what we're wearing and what we're saying." (While accepting an MTV award for best new artist)

"I was cast in the crazy role and I was perfect for it." (Entertainment Weekly, Sept. 2005)

On whether she feels her success is revenge for years of being bullied: "Well, maybe I do feel revenge and just don't recognize it. Maybe the reason why I feel at peace is that I've got my revenge." (Details, July 1997)

"I almost feel it's my duty to make an ass out of myself in public." (Interview magazine, November 1997)

"I know I'm going to die young ... I'm going to cut another album, and I'm going to do good things, help people, and then I'm going to die." (Spin, November 1997)

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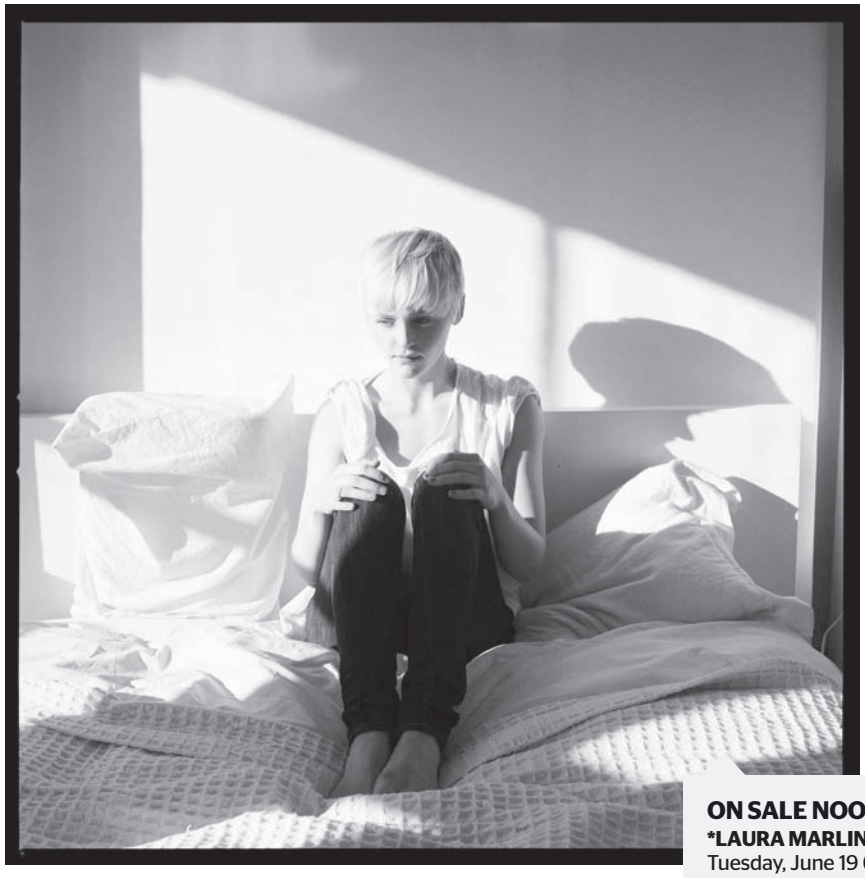

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* = Metromix recommended show

ON SALE 10 A.M. FRIDAY

COLLECTIVE SOUL, Saturday, June 23 ($37.50, 17+) at House of Blues.

SUGARLAND, LAUREN ALAINA, CANAAN SMITH, Saturday, June 23 ($24.75-$54, all ages) at First Midwest Bank Amphitheatre.

ON SALE NOON FRIDAY

DEF LEPPARD, POISON, LITA FORD, Thursday, July 19 ($29.50-$95, all ages) at Allstate Arena.

GAUNTLET HAIR, Sunday, April 29 ($12, 18+) at Schubas.

LEE "SCRATCH" PERRY, SUB-ATOMIC SOUNDSYSTEM, Monday, May 21 ($20-$25, 21+) at Lincoln Hall.

AMY RAY, Tuesday, May 15 ($15-$18, 21+) at Lincoln Hall.

ON SALE 5 P.M. FRIDAY

SAM LLANAS, Saturday, May 12 ($12-$15, all ages) at Space.

ON SALE 10 A.M. SATURDAY

LUCHA VAVOOM, Saturday, May 5 ($25, 18+) at Park West.

ON SALE NOON SATURDAY

***JON DRAKE AND THE SHAKES**, Friday, May 11 ($7-$10, 21+) at Double Door.

ON SALE NOW

THE ACTION BLAST, IMPERIAL SONS, DAYLIGHT DAWNS, MARINA CITY, DELIGHTFUL DOWNFALL, Saturday, March 31 ($10-$12.50, 17+) at House of Blues.

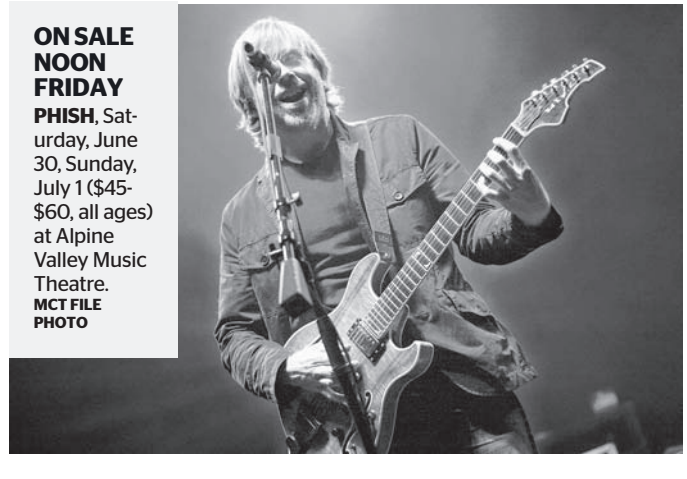
ON SALE NOON FRIDAY

***LAURA MARLING**, Tuesday, June 19 ($22-$25, 21+) at Athenaeum Theater.

ON SALE NOON FRIDAY

PHISH, Saturday, June 30, Sunday, July 1 ($45-$60, all ages) at Alpine Valley Music Theatre.

MCT FILE PHOTO



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An introspective warm-up to a rowdy weekend.

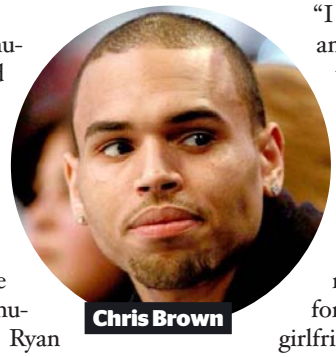
Jamie Lono and the Feel Good Nation
6 p.m. Sun. $10. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave., 773-281-4444.

As seen on "The Voice."

Rihanna calls Chris Brown collaboration 'innocent'

Reuters

Pop star Rihanna called her recent musical collaboration with ex-boyfriend Chris Brown "innocent," after critics and fans split on the duo working together three years after Brown assaulted the pop star.


Chris Brown

"We did two records, one for my fans and one for his fans, and that way our fans can come together. There shouldn't be a divide, you know; it's music and it's innocent," Rihanna told Ryan Seacrest on his syndicated morning radio show Thursday.

Rihanna provided vocals on a remix of Brown's new dance song "Turn Up The Music" while Brown lent his voice to Rihanna's sexually charged "Birthday Cake." Both tracks were released last month after the Grammy awards Feb. 12.

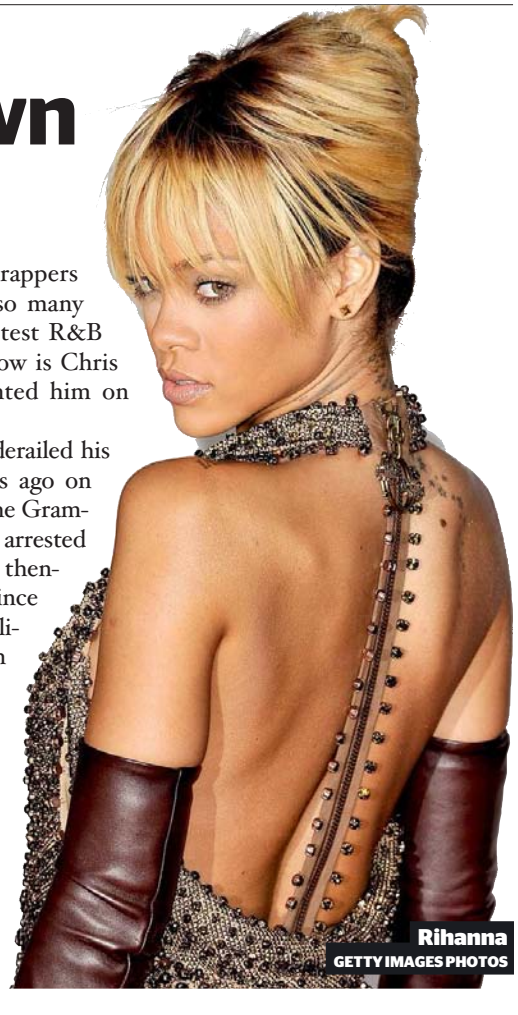
"I reached out to him about doing 'Birthday Cake' because that's the only person that really it made sense to do the record, just as a musician; despite everything else, that was going to be the person," Rihanna told Seacrest.

"I thought about rappers and I've done that so many times, and the hottest R&B artist out right now is Chris Brown, so I wanted him on the track."

Brown nearly derailed his career three years ago on the night before the Grammys after he was arrested for beating up his then-girlfriend, Rihanna. Since that time he has tried to rehabilitate himself in the eyes of fans, with mixed results.

The musical reunion of Rihanna and Brown had social media abuzz as fans split on the pair working together, with some making cynical comments, others calling it a publicity stunt and many embracing the new songs.

Brown has yet to comment openly on the collaboration.


Rihanna
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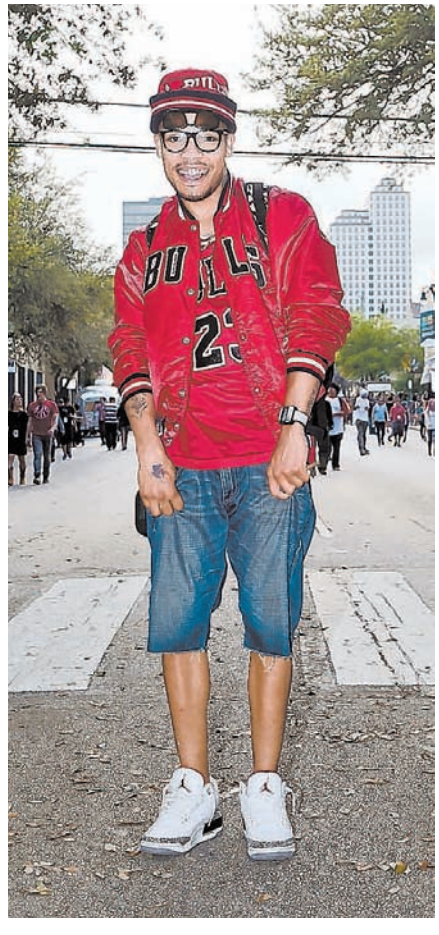

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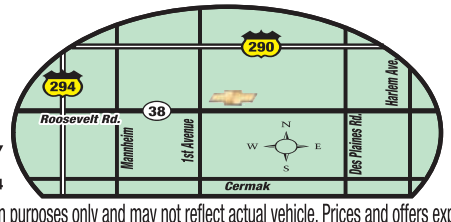

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hookups

MISSED CONNECTIONS | LINE OF THE WEEK

M for W / Brown line / Thursday

I have never seen such beautiful eyes. They were an indescribable color, closest to the color of the big blue sky today.

HELP! I suck at bar talk

Anna Pulley
» redeye@tribune.com

Anna:

I'm terrible at talking to women in bars. I always feel so awkward and never know what to say. On the rare occasion that I've gotten a few numbers from girls, it never leads anywhere. What can I do to get over myself?

—Bar Not So Fly

I doubt I'm the first one to suggest this, but maybe you should try meeting women somewhere other than bars?

Bars are weird spaces. It's sort of assumed that women who go alone to bars are either very sad or desperately trying to get laid, otherwise why would they be there? God forbid we just want to watch the damn game in peace! That said, talking to women in bars should be no more challenging than talking to women outside of bars. In fact, it should be easier because you are aided by alcohol and maybe even a jukebox stocked with Ace of Base, which everyone can agree is the most erotically charged music known to womankind.

It also depends on what you expect to get out of these boozy encounters. It's very rare (your chances are around 8 to 10 percent) that you'll meet your soul mate by bellying up at a TGI Friday's. If you're solely trying to get laid, I would seriously try to cultivate an allure of "I'm not here solely to get laid." Women can smell that from a mile away, like Axe body spray.

WikiHow has a 24-step process for hitting on girls at bars (as well as an instructional video involving someone in Ron Jeremy drag) with tips such as, "Walk around with a big, cool-looking drink," "dance with an ugly girl," and "check out the bathroom." I can personally tell you that all these tactics have worked on me, especially the last one. (Tangent: That's actually not true. The few times I've been in men's bathrooms, I've been wholly ignored. Y'all really don't make eye contact in there!)

Non-seriousness aside, if what you're doing isn't working, then change things up. Pick a new venue if you're going to the same one constantly.

Do you often head out alone? Then try skanking it up with an entourage. Change your wardrobe, change your intro, and definitely change your attitude.

Flirting with strangers is sort of like organized religion; the only way to really "get it" is to build up a high shame tolerance. And to practice often! The more you talk to girls, the easier it gets. This doesn't mean you'll be instantly swathed in thongs or anything, but it should help you get over your nerves and increase your confidence levels. You should also know that if a woman wants to sleep with you, a little awkwardness is not going to stop her—short of, perhaps, a botched attempt at a clown porn joke.

GETTY IMAGES

REDEYE DATING | How about we ... (POWERED BY)

"Try some craft beers at Hopleaf Bar!
—**Emily88** *24 / F / Chicago*

"Go to Black Dog Gelato and try the olive oil ice cream.
—**2achary** *24 / M / Chicago*

"Go to Avec and dine on artisanal cheeses, tapas and wine.
—**IUFay** *24 / F / Chicago*

"Take a pasta making class at The Chopping Block.
—**Aquaman32** *33 / M / Chicago*

INTERESTED? **Redeyedating.com** is the modern way to date. Just say "How about we ..." and fill in the dots with a date you want to go on. You go online to get offline.

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Low 44K Miles! All Power Options! CD, A/C, Bedliner,
Super Work Truck! (H4354A) **$11,985 888-223-1850**

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CHEVY 2007 TRAILBLAZER LT 4X4,
Heated Leather, Moonroof, Full Power, Rear A/C, Ultra
Loaded! Alloys! (W3657) **$CALL 888-223-1850**

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Only 35K Miles! Sporty Look! All Options! Fun To Drive!
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AUDI 2007 Q7 3.6 QUATTRO
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BMW 2008 135 CONVERTIBLE
Low Miles! Auto, Heated Leather, Power, CD, & More!
(P1064) **$26,995 888-641-7122**

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BMW 2008 M3
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TOYOTA 2011 PRIUS HYBRID,
Only 14K Miles! Loaded! (M1145A)
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AMG Roadster! Low Miles! All Options! (W12006A)
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Full Power, Rear A/C, Dual Power Doors, Quads!
Nice Family Ride! (H4685B) **$6,783 888-223-1850**

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TOYOTA 2010 HIGHLANDER HYBRID
Leather, 3rd Seat, All The Power Options! Like New In & Out!
(6469A) **$34,991 888-253-0488**

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A Real Gas Saver! 6-CD Changer, Loaded! A Must Have!
(120199A) **$11,635 866-654-2841**

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Only 72K Miles! Flawless! Leather Loaded! (P1051A)
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(P8663) **$14,695 847-231-2559**

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Super Clean! Great MPG! Fully Loaded! 25 To Choose From!
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Only 39K Miles! Extra Sharp! Luxury Loaded! Very Well Kept!
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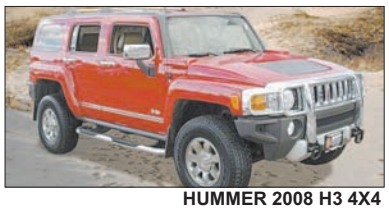

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Low Miles! Leather, Moonroof & Navigation! (M363A)
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INFINITI 2008 G37S, Low Miles! Navigation, Heated Leather,
Back Up Camera, Moonroof, Power, CD, The Works!
Sport Sharp! (M432A) **$SCAN FOR PRICE 866-411-9912**

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INFINITI 2004 FX35, Low Low Miles! Leather Loaded, Heated
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Words With Friends ... with benefits

The Date Report

Words With Friends lets you play Scrabble (or rather, a Scrabble-like imitation) electronically with your friends. It can also help you get dates. Here's how.

1 Words with Facebook friends

Because people are so willing to challenge anyone to a game, Words With Friends brings about the most unlikely pairings: you against an ex, you against that kid from your sophomore English class, you against that person you made out with at a party once, you against your friend's little sister's friend. In other words, the people you would never actually message on Facebook, but have no problem playing a friendly round of scrabble with. In some sense, Words With Friends widens the dating pool of people you already vaguely know.

2 Words with friends you flirt with

As we've said before, a little healthy competition can ignite chemistry you didn't even know you had. Especially if it's a close game. Especially if you're a little turned on by your partner's epic use of the word "UNFORGED." Especially if you find yourself noting that your partner played their most recent word immediately after you did, which means you're both playing right now, which means you may as well be on a date.

3 Words with friends with benefits

If you're playing Words With Friends with friends, but you want to be more-than friends, look to your letters as the key. Do you have enough to spell the following words?

CUTE: 6 pts.

DATE: 5 pts.

SEXY: 14 pts.

CRUSH: 10 pts.

SOULMATE: 10 pts.

HOOKUP: 15 pts.

If you're ballsy, you can use the chatbox to follow them up with a saucy comment.

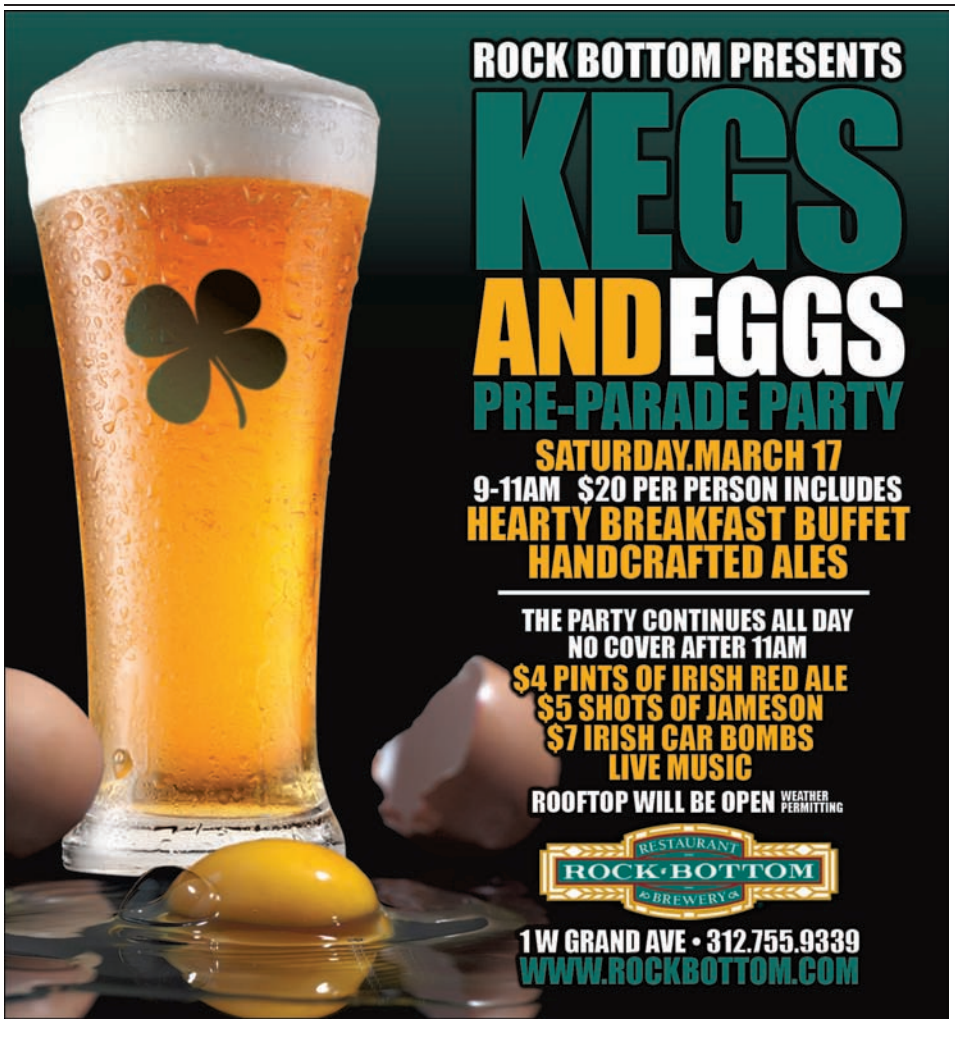
Megan Lawless and Jasper Jasperse met playing Words With Friends. The Chicago residents married last year. LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE FILE

4 Words with dates in real places

Words With Friends has the easiest transition to offline dating ever. And it can be casual, too!

If you lost: "Rematch? Scrabble next weekend, in real time, so I can tell you aren't cheating? ;-)"

If you won: "OK. Let's raise the stakes this time. Winner buys the loser coffee next week."
So cute! So seamless! So easy to shrug it off as not a big deal if they for some reason say no. But they won't, because who can refuse a date with a Words With Friends champ?



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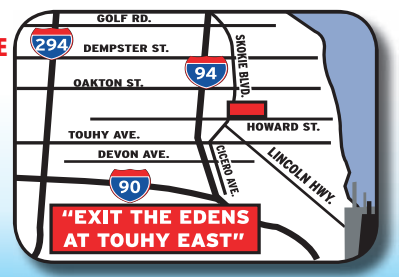

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One night in the (fake) big house

Reuters

LONDON As the hours approach toward incarceration, the nerves begin to fray. The few belongings packed in preparation for a stint in the big house seem paltry: a towel, a book and even a roll of toilet paper.

But you can't prepare to think like a prisoner.

"Inmates" at London's Hotel Alcatraz lose everything they've brought with them when they walk in the door—even the clothes off their backs—as they enter a mock-up of the notorious U.S. island prison made famous by inmates such as Al Capone and George "Machine Gun" Kelly.

The hotel, open to the public through Saturday, may be a publicity stunt for the British premiere of "Lost" creator J.J. Abrams' latest science fiction TV series, "Alcatraz," but guests were quickly disabused of the notion that this is anything other than a night in the slammer.

Mugshots were taken. Uniforms issued. Belongings surveyed. Pockets were checked for contraband.

A guard sitting at a manual typewriter stared up on a Wednesday night and asked for a name.

"Here in Alcatraz, you will address the guards as 'sir'!" he growled.

Sitting in a 5-foot-by-9-foot cell, with nothing but a prisoner's rule book, a menu and a dirt-caked sink and toilet, prisoners were left only with their thoughts.

To every guest's relief, the grimy privy in the cell was only for show, and visitors made use of private facilities.

But while the concrete walls of the cell might actually have been plaster cast, placed in a dank room with bilious blankets smelling like something recovered from a flood, the feeling that prisoners had lost control over their lives seemed real.

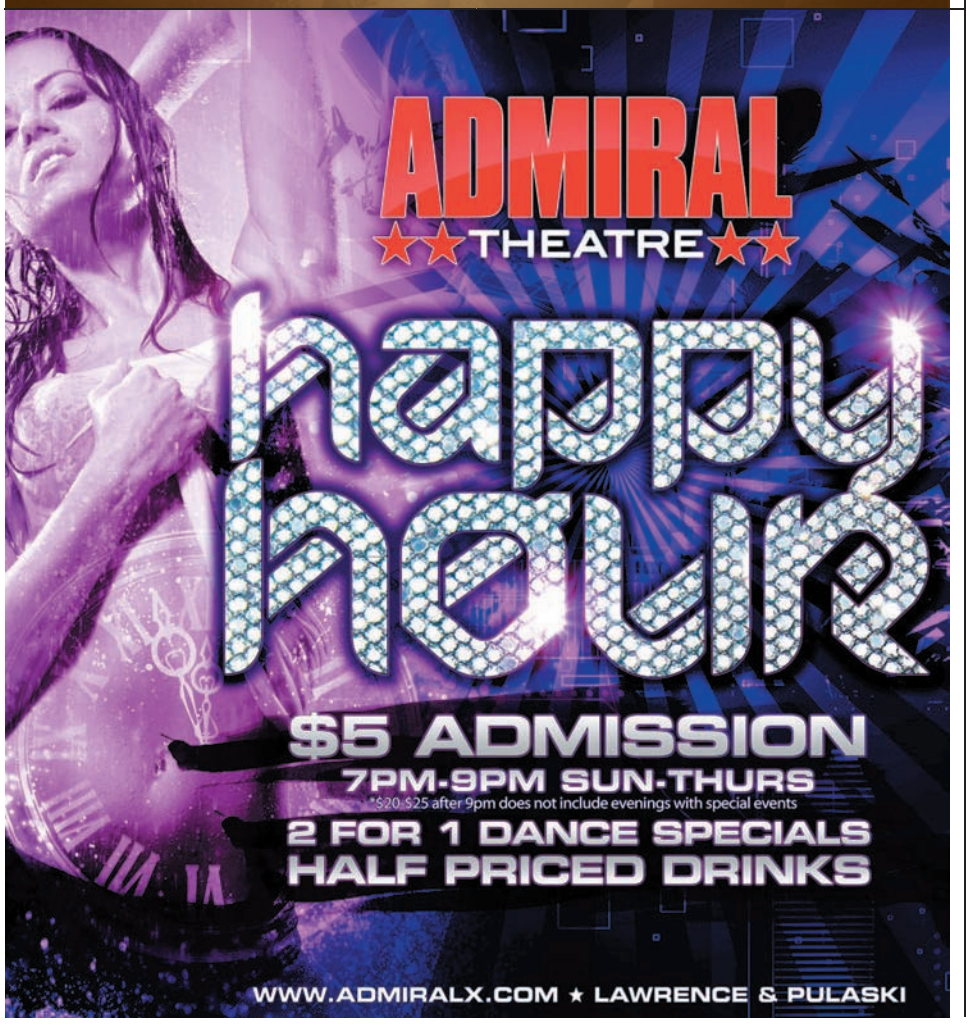
Prisoners were released early the next morning after a night's stay and warned to never re-offend. While shockingly not the worst hotel, Alcatraz was certainly thought-provoking.

The longest term at Alcatraz was more than 8,000 nights and several famous criminals such as Capone and the "Birdman" Robert Stroud did long stints on "the Rock."

Guests said that while they were happy they made the choice to sample Alcatraz-on-Thames and enjoyed the night, they probably wouldn't be repeat customers.

Alcatraz is quite possibly the only hotel where, at the end of your stay, the staff shout at you, "Don't come back!"

A hotel guest (left) takes a mugshot at the Hotel Alcatraz as a guard patrols the entrance. REUTERS



Courtney Halverson plays Karen O'Hara in "Leprechaun's Revenge."

Gory, green and ghoulish

SHOW PATROL
Curt Wagner
» cwwagner@tribune.com
» @showpatrol

Leprechaun's Revenge
8 p.m. Saturday, Syfy

Remember the 1993 "Leprechaun" movie that starred Jennifer Aniston and became an unlikely six-movie franchise? No? Well, it happened. Anyway, Syfy treads over that well-worn, bad leprechaun path this weekend with "Leprechaun's Revenge."

Things seem happy-go-lucky just before St. Patrick's Day in a small Massachusetts town until Karen O'Hara (Courtney Halverson) goes hog hunting with her grandpa, Pop (William Devane). Kate finds a red clover that burns her hand and then is attacked by a vengeful leprechaun. She dismisses what she sees at first—surely she was knocked over by an animal—until she starts having visions of the "vermin of the fairy folk."

Before you can say "top o' the morning" or "luck o' the Irish"—and believe me, those are both said here—our little green ghoulie is dismembering townspeople, ripping out their organs and running one over with a Hyundai. Oh, and he's stealing their gold!

Pops knows what this all means, but since he's the town drunk no one really believes him. It takes a few more bloody ambushes before Sheriff Conor O'Hara (Billy Zane), Pops' son and Karen's dad, buys into the freak show and becomes the "leprecop" he always was meant to be.

That's only after Karen and her boyfriend read up on Irish folklore and decide to go leprechaun hunting on their own, using, um, lucky horseshoes. "Are you suggesting that I pimp-slap a leprechaun?" he asks her.

Silly boy, such tricks are for dead people.

"Leprechaun's Revenge" actually is better than the average Syfy Original Movie, which isn't saying a whole lot. The leprechaun looks like a kid in a rubber suit, and the movie plays it straight for too long. But Devane is fun to watch, the flick is stylishly filmed and there are enough tongue-in-cheek winks to make it entertaining.

You're likely to have a good time—even if you watch it sober.

» If you want something a little more romantic for St. Patrick's Day, at 7 p.m. on Hallmark Channel, Adrian Pasdar plays a businessman who finds love on the Emerald Isle in "Chasing Leprechauns."

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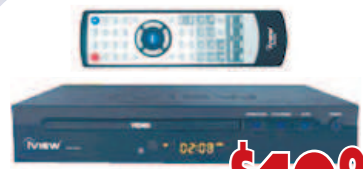

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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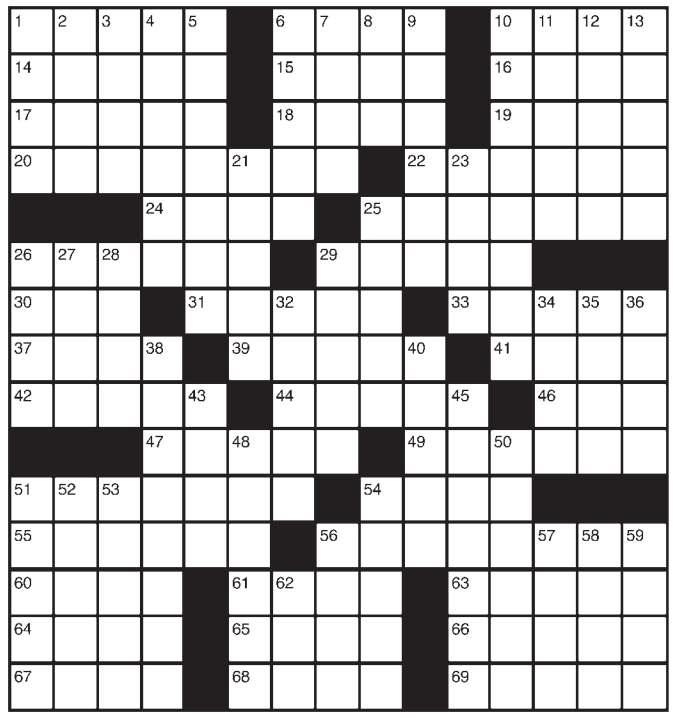

ACROSS
1 Open space in a forest
6 West or Sandler
10 Stinging insect
14 Tripoli's nation
15 Give a traffic ticket to
16 Actress Sheedy
17 Prayer closings
18 Reds, Browns or Blue Jays
19 Night twinkler
20 Full of specifics
22 Act properly
24 Lake _; largest U.S. reservoir
25 Idolizes
26 Crossword direction
29 Punctured
30 Fraternity letter
31 _ firma; solid ground
33 Cancels
37 Ember
39 Awaken
41 Bucket
42 Bit of parsley
44 "Lovely Rita, _ maid..."
46 Pekoe or oolong
47 Absorbent cloth
49 Cure
51 British farewell
54 Grain storage structure
55 Rue
56 Making a sheep's noise
60 Pond growth
61 Jewish wedding dance
63 Leg bone
64 Job opening
65 Mr. Sevareid
66 Kick out
67 Sharpen
68 Overuse the cologne
69 Office furniture

DOWN
1 Pleased
2 Shade of green
3 Be an accomplice
4 Energetic one
5 Least difficult
6 Performed
7 Passed away
8 One _ time; consecutively
9 Club meeting attendee
10 Cleaned one's hands
11 Church table
12 Work hard
13 Funeral blazes
21 High-intensity beam
23 Like 2, 4 and 6
25 Cut of beef or pork
26 Rainbows
27 _ suey; Chinese dish
28 Laugh loudly
29 Oliver's dinner
32 "_ and Juliet"
34 Overdue
35 Told a whopper
36 Kill
38 Able to read and write
40 Uncanny
43 Clinton's VP
45 Akin
48 Dry up; shrivel
50 Reason
51 Traffic accident
52 "_, Dolly!"
53 Encourage
54 Like a loose rope
56 Soft cheese
57 Long-legged waterbird
58 Small notch
59 Prison guns
62 Miner's find

TODAY IN THE YEAR ...

1994: Figure skater Tonya Harding pleaded guilty in Portland, Ore., to conspiracy to hinder prosecution for covering up the attack on rival Nancy Kerrigan, avoiding jail but drawing a $100,000 fine.
1999: The Nebraska Cornhuskers beat Chicago State 50-3 in an NCAA baseball game.
2005: A judge in Redwood City, Calif., sent Scott Peterson to death row for the slaying of his pregnant wife, Laci.

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whoville

By Dana Moran | REDEYE

We're so busy pulling our hair out over March Madness, we almost forgot about our famous friends! Actually, sorry, Snooki, we could never forget about you. In the spirit of all things brackets, we decided to face off our favorite train wrecks from this week to see who will emerge victorious. Who's going to hear "One Shining Moment"? Check it out.

BRACKET BUSTERS

THESE ELITE EIGHT HAVE HAD QUITE THE INTERESTING WEEK

RIHANNA

Told Ryan Seacrest that Chris Brown was "the only person that really made sense" to do a guest verse on "Birthday Cake."

LINDSAY LOHAN

Allegedly got in a hit-and-run outside a Hollywood club.

WINNER
RIHANNA

What, other dudes don't miss having sex with you?

JENNIFER LOPEZ

The U.K.'s Daily Mail discovered that the stunt-double for her new music video is a dude.

COURTNEY LOVE

Said "The Muppets' " use of Kurt Cobain's music "raped" his memory.

WINNER
JENNIFER

We've learned to tune Courtney out by now.

FINAL ROUND
JENNIFER LOPEZ VS. RUSSELL BRAND

OVERALL WINNER

Jennifer

In a bout of fun-crazy vs. serious-crazy, we've gotta go with a dude stuffing his top. Congrats, JLo! Don't spend all your winnings on your underage boyfriend!

WINNER
RUSSELL

Steve Jobs would not be impressed by your antics, sir.

RUSSELL BRAND

New Orleans has issued a warrant for his arrest after he smashed a window with a stolen iPhone.

JESSICA SIMPSON

Waaaay overshared on Ryan Seacrest's radio show about how waaaay horny she is.

WINNER
VINNY

That baby might be the worst thing to happen to that "Shore" house.

VINNY GUADAGNINO

The "Jersey Shore" dude says he wants to turn the show's smush room into Snooki's baby room.

DRAKE

Jokingly (we think? Maybe?) puts the moves on a GQ reporter.

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red hot

We'll always love her

Want another chance to see Whitney Houston on the big screen? You can—for one night only. "The Bodyguard" will be re-released in theaters March 28 to honor the movie's 20th anniversary. Chicagoans can catch the flick at AMC River East, City North Showplace, Showplace Webster Place and the Roosevelt Collections.

THE DIGIT

$24-$50

The cost of Snooki handbags mostly designed in leopard print and sold at **www.snookishop.com.**

HOT DATE

MAY 9

That's the new date for Childish Gambino's concert at the Riviera. The rapper had to postpone his March 30 show this week after he suffered a fractured foot during a performance in Tampa, Fla., according to his official website.

Ashton Kutcher
US PRESSWIRE

"Jesus wanted [his look] back, so I gave it to him."

—**Ashton Kutcher,** jokingly explaining to reporters his return to a beardless, cropped-hair look, according to **people.com**

Not so horrible

Warm up that singing voice, NPH. Joss Whedon plans to fire up a sequel to "Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog" this summer, the director told **wired.com**. "We do have a number of songs written," he said. "We have a whole outline." The original, released in three segments during the 2007-08 writers strike, featured Neil Patrick Harris as a musically inclined evil doctor in love.

Naya Rivera Cory Monteith Dianna Agron

Field trip

The "Glee" club is going to the GLAAD Awards. "Glee" stars Naya Rivera, Cory Monteith and Dianna Agron will host the media awards split between New York on March 24 and San Francisco on June 2, **thr.com** reports. Dakota Fanning, Betty White, Ellen DeGeneres, Josh Hutcherson, Jesse Tyler Ferguson and Anna Paquin are among the celebs expected to be on hand for the awards.

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